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THE TIMES
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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 1996

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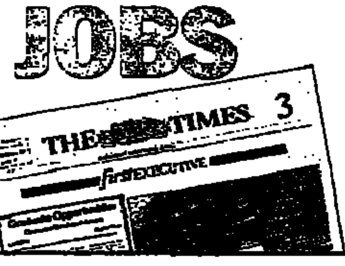

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SECTION 3

French police investigate claim that arson by sacked staff could have caused train fire

Tunnel is kept shut as experts wrangle

BY JOANNA BALE IN CALAIS, ADAM SAGE IN PARIS, JONATHAN PRYNN AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Channel Tunnel is to remain closed indefinitely after Eurotunnel representatives walked out of talks with its safety regulators yesterday.

SNCF, the French rail operator, ruled out any resumption of services before Monday, and if the safety authority insists that the tunnel is fully repaired before any trains run, it could be closed until the new year.

Eurotunnel, which had hoped to start some services bypassing the damaged section today and insists that it can have trains running within a few hours of being given the go-ahead, refused to comment on yesterday's talks, but a company source said that its delegation had walked out after five hours when members of the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority suggested that none of its train services was safe. The meeting continued for another six hours without the Eurotunnel team.

The talks were held as French authorities began to investigate claims that the which devastated part of the Folkestone-bound tunnel on Monday night was started deliberately.

Alain Bertrand, Eurotunnel's chief operations manager, confirmed last night that a security guard had made a statement saying that he had seen smoke coming from lorry on the train before it left. And although it was originally assumed that it had been an accident, a source at the Calais prosecutor's office said: "One of the possibilities we are looking at is that someone put some kind of incendiary device on to the lorry."

The fire was discovered shortly after the end of a two-hour strike by Eurotunnel staff at Calais over the announcement that 657 jobs were to be cut. French port workers are known for their militancy and often brandish incendiary distress flares in disputes.

About half a mile of the south tunnel was severely affected by the blaze, which was so intense that it melted a lorry load of aluminium. The damage will cost tens of millions of pounds to repair and some experts predict that it could take until the new year to complete the work.

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, yesterday called for the tunnel to remain closed pending a thorough overhaul of safety procedures. He suggested that the design of the car trains should also be reviewed and said that it might be safer for passengers to leave their cars and travel in enclosed carriages. He also wanted closed freight wagons and smoke hoods for passengers. "We have got to get safety right — next time we could be talking about bodies, not close escapes," he said.

Jeremy Beech, chief fire officer for Kent and a member of the tunnel safety authority, also questioned the design of the open wagons used to transport lorries, saying: "I was shown the design back in 1992 and said then that if a fire occurred it would be very serious — that's now ben proved. "The safety authority is looking again at this design. I have always been concerned as a fire fighter about the extent of the spread of fire in a case like this."

The safety authority has the power to keep the tunnel closed until all the repairs are done, and some members are known to be concerned about the safety of running trains in both directions through a single tunnel. If another incident meant large numbers of people had to be moved out quickly, there would not be a second tunnel available to evacuate them by train.

M Betrand, however, was confident that the authority would not insist that both tunnels should be fully operational before services could run. "We have done this before when one tunnel has been out of action due to maintenance operations," he said. "The system is designed to cope." He added that services woujld begin again quickly once the authority gave its approval. "Eurotunnel plans to resume in several phases, starting in a few hours with freight trains. I hope trains and shuttle trains with private cars and passengers might start rolling again by the end of the week."

Eurostar yesterday tried to take some passengers to Paris and Brussels by train, bus and boat — but that emergency service was abandoned when the journeys were taking between six and eight hours.

Eurostar will be given priority over Le Shuttle when the tunnel does reopen, but with most of the customers who called the hotline opting to reschedule rather than cancel their journeys, there was a growing uncertainty about how long it would take to clear the backlog of people holding tickets.

Both Eurostar and Le Shuttle have frozen bookings for the time being, but Eurostar said that it would be ready to run services within an hour of any announcement that the tunnel was reopening.

P&O said it would bring a fifth ferry into action tomorrow to increase the number of Dover to Calais crossings from 20 to 25 tomorrow, and annual repair work had been postponed on the three ships on the Dover-Zeebrugge route. Yesterday almost all the crossings were full, but P&O said that early delays disappeared once the weather improved and after mid-morning the tailbacks that had jammed the port during the original rush of traffic when the tunnel shut had dispersed.

British Airways said that it had seen an increase in business on flights to Paris and Brussels. "Some flights were full but we expect that we will still have some seats available," a spokesman said.

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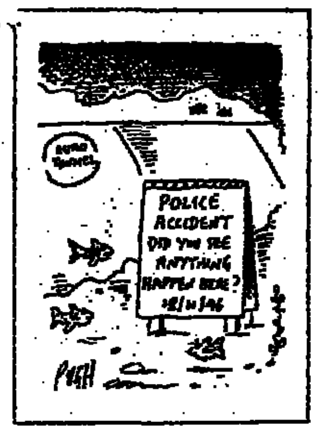
POLICE
ACCIDENT
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING HAPPEN HERE?
18/11/96
PUGH

PASCAL ROSSIGNOL/REUTER

The rear locomotive of the burnt train emerges covered in soot near Calais yesterday. The wrecked front portion of the train remains welded to the rails in the tunnel

Council bans 'distasteful' film

Westminster council has banned the film *Crash* from its cinemas unless the board of film censors gives it an 18-certificate and insists on cuts. The film, which explores sexual gratification over car crashes, contains three scenes which the 12 councillors on the licensing sub-committee found too distasteful ...Page 5

Five-day drill for French teenagers

French teenagers will have to go on five-day civic instruction courses under plans to replace national conscription. Anyone who does not take part will be unable to apply for a civil service job, enter higher education or obtain social security. All 18-year-olds will be instructed on their rights and duties as citizens........Page 19

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Police kill man on rampage in shop

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A DISTURBED man who went on the rampage in a busy city supermarket with a knife was shot dead by a police marksman last night.

The 40-year-old-man, who was also waving a pair of handcuffs, ran into the Co-op shop in Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, Birmingham, after an argument with a woman, believed to be his mother, at a house nearby.

Inside the shop the man launched an attack on three members of staff before confronting the manager. He put the handcuffs on the man and then threatened him with the knife at his back before lashing out in attempt to cut the man's throat. He stabbed him at least once in the stomach.

Outside the shop armed police, who had been called to deal with the disturbance at the house, surrounded the building but were forced to open fire when their attempts to negotiate with the man failed.

Witnesses heard four or five shots after an officer opened fire and seriously wounded the man. He died later.

The officer who shot the man was described as "extremely traumatised".The shop manager was being treated for the wounds, but his life was not at risk.

Angler casts out British record with 98lb catfish

BY BRIAN CLARKE
ANGLING CORRESPONDENT

A CATFISH seven feet long and weighing 98lbs, a fish without precedent in the annals of British angling, has been caught from a lake in Essex.

It was taken by Steve Bond from Oak Lodge, a two-acre water at Rayleigh, near Southend.

The fish was half as heavy again as the next biggest freshwater fish ever caught in Britain, a 64lb salmon taken by Georgina Ballantine in 1922. It was 37lbs heavier than the previous record catfish, caught from a lake in Bedfordshire earlier this year.

But even as the scales on which the fish was weighed were being checked by a local Weights and Measures Department and a claim for a new record was being prepared, questions about the catch began circulating.

Mr Bond owns the lake and charges anglers £20 a day. A number of catfish anglers were suggesting the fish could have been smuggled in from the European mainland and recently put into the water.

If so, that would be sufficient to have any record claim rejected. Mr Bond dismissed these claims out of hand. "I have seven witnesses to the capture. Nothing like that fish has ever been put in. It is all just jealousy."

Alwyne Wheeler, a former curator of fish at the Natural History Museum and scientific adviser to the British record fish committee, said: "It does seem surprising that such an enormous fish should come from such a small lake. It would take a tremendous toll of other fish and any water fowl present. The committee will come to a decision when it has all the evidence."

In the meantime, there is no doubt that the immense fish was caught, and caught on rod and line by Mr Bond.

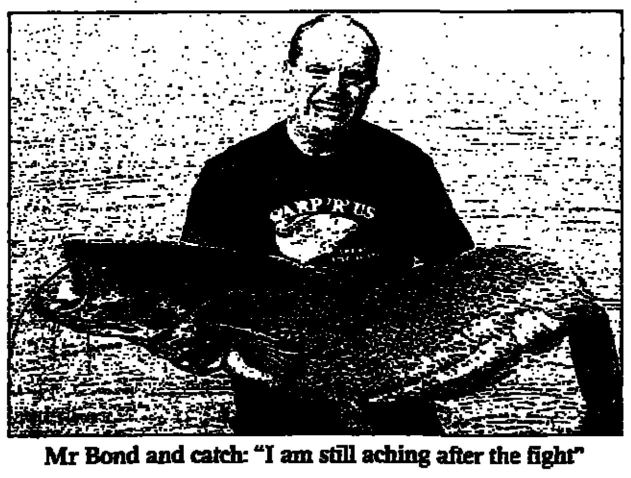
"I am still aching after the fight," he said. "I hooked it while I was fishing from the bank but realised after ten minutes that I could not control it from there.

"A friend got into a boat with me. I weigh 16 stones and my pal weighs 14 stones. We were already low in the water. The fish towed us around for an hour and a half. People on the bank thought it was going to tow us under."

Catfish are predators and scavengers and on the European mainland, where they originated, they can grow to immense size. Weights of 400lb and even 500lb have been recorded.

Relatively few waters in Britain contain them and they have not achieved that size here. The first were introduced to Britain by the Duke of Bedford who, in 1880, put 70 or so small fish into two lakes at Woburn. Since then, the fish have spread to several other waters in the Home Counties and the southern Midlands.

There has long been speculation on how big a record fish could grow. This catch looks set to put several theories to the test.



Mr Bond and catch: "I am still aching after the fight"

Sceptics win vote on EMU debate

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

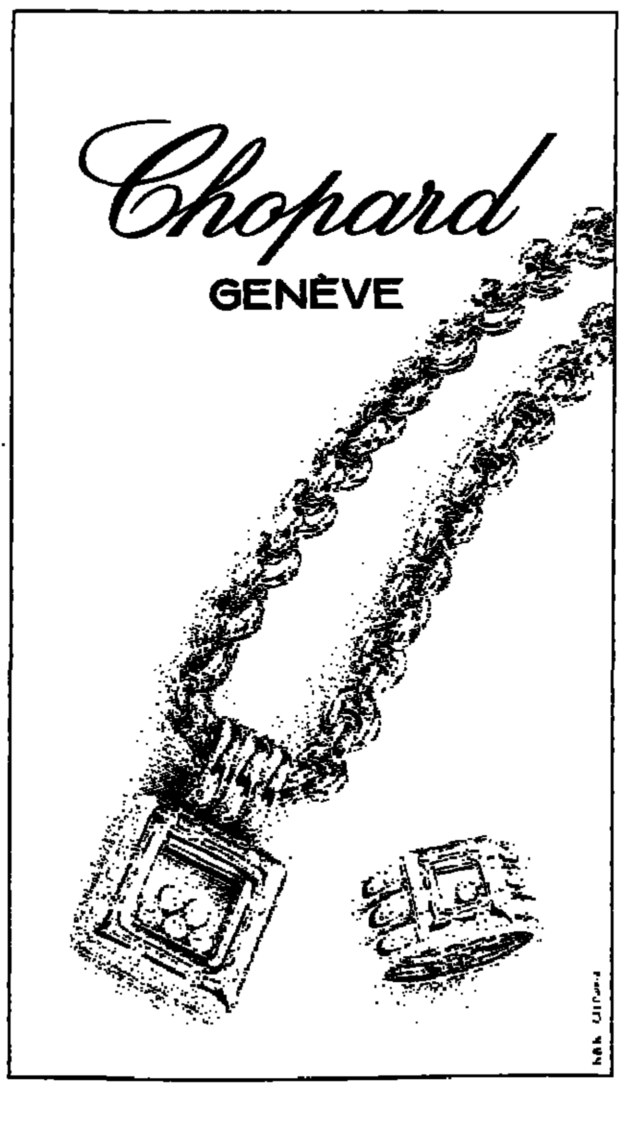
THE Government faced mounting pressure to give way to MPs and allow a debate on the single currency last night after suffering an embarrassing defeat at the hands of Euro-sceptics using guerrilla warfare tactics.

Amid chaotic scenes a Commons committee yesterday morning refused to back the Government's wish to "take note" of a series of Brussels proposals on monetary union. The Government wanted the matters, covering arrangements for introducing the euro, including fines for countries that breach budget deficit rules, to be dealt with by committee rather than in the full glare of the Commons.

Ministers made plain that they would ignore the vote, saying the debate in itself had been enough to comply with Commons rules that the regulations had to be "scrutinised". But protests mounted through the day. The rebels took heart when Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, promised to look into the matter and said she was anxious to "save the integrity of the House".

Then in a potentially decisive move last night the Select Committee on European Legislation made a renewed demand for the matter to be

Continued on page 2, col 6



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Pie's the limit for minister bringing ample help to starving refugees

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

A FOOTBALL chant directed against a chubby player, and common at the cheap end of the stadium, goes:

Who ate all the pies?
Who ate all the pies?
You fat bastard,
You fat bastard,
You ate all the pies!

No MP was actually vulgar enough to chant this, or anything like it, as Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, steamed into the chamber yesterday to make a statement about military support for a relief operation to help starving refugees in Central Africa. But the thought entered more minds than mine, that to place this Minister behind a Whitehall desk to sign orders and agree statements, is to misdirect his talents.

Overseeing two operations — supplying military protection and providing food — the enormous Mr Soames aims to do good indirectly. But deployed in his own person as a defensive barrage, or as nourishment for hungry refugees, Soames could do good directly.

With Soames borne aloft and ahead — a human shield in Hussars' tie — a whole regiment could march across the African plain safe from attack. He would serve in two capacities. First, the mere sight of Mr Soames would so terrify both the Hutus and the Tutsis, none of whom could ever before have seen anything so big and so white, that most would drop their spears and run. As for the Congo pygmies, they would be dumbfounded, regarding Soames as the representative of another species altogether.

Secondly, should any attack by spears, arrows or blowpipes actually be launched, such a bombardment would be to Mr Soames what a few mosquito bites are to lesser humans. The natives, finding their weaponry useless, would panic, their morale shattered.

The military operation complete, there would be no need to bring Soames home. For now the humanitarian stage commences. Just one of the Armed Forces Minister's legs could feed an entire Hutu encampment. Finely diced and served with yams, Soames could make the difference between survival and starvation for a whole tribe. A generous, jovial and genuinely philanthropic soul, it is quite possible Mr Soames could be persuaded of the benefits of serving humanity in this unusual way.

Before the Minister arrived, MPs had endured a session that can stretch 60 minutes of parliamentary time into what always seems an eternity. They call it Scottish Questions. An hour has never seemed so long.

Of note yesterday — apart from an observation by Barry Field (Isle of Wight, Conservative) that the Scots "mutter and moan into their sporrans" — surely a gymnastic feat? — was this: Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, seems to be making a point of personally answering almost every Question from English Tory MPs.

This is unusual. There were four Scottish ministers on the bench, and only a handful of English MPs on the government backbenches. But every time an English colleague popped up, Forsyth took the Question.

Up he would leap, ever helpful, ready to flatter even the most preposterous of his Sassenach colleagues. Speaking without notes, this rising right-wing Eurosceptic showed off his skill and bite at the dispatch box. In fact there was only one English Tory he did not answer: the irretrievably Europeanist and Heathite wet, Hugh Dykes (Harrow East). No votes there for Forsyth in a future leadership contest.

As I left, an omen stalked into the chamber.

Spindly Sir George Gardiner (Conservative, Reigate) has thickened a little around the midriffs, and now resembles a lick of cuckoo-spittle on a long stick. When Sir George shows, Tory trouble is brewing on Europe.

Butler defends Whitehall role in Tory tax attack

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

THE Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, became embroiled in a fierce political row yesterday as he insisted that the impartiality of civil servants had not been compromised by the production of a Tory document alleging Labour spending plans would cost the taxpayer £30 billion.

Sir Robin's swift intervention to underline the independence of the Civil Service overshadowed a day of claims and counter claims about the Conservatives' "tax bombshell" charge.

The Tories had published a dossier detailing 89 pledges which they claimed would cost the average family £1,200. But within five hours, Labour had produced a line-by-line rebuttal, saying each of the Tory claims was a lie.

Sir Robin made clear that civil servants had acted in accordance with guidelines. But in a strongly worded statement the First Division Association, which represents senior civil servants, expressed deep concern at "the extensive use of civil servants to cost alleged Labour Party policies".

Alerted by Tony Blair's office to a BBC report suggesting that he had authorised civil servants to trawl through the speeches of Labour frontbenchers for spending commitments, Sir Robin indicated that he had had no personal part in the exercise, about which he learnt for the first time on Sunday. He added that the exercise had not breached the rules.

He is understood to have telephoned William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, who is in charge of the costing exercise and met him later. But he denied, through the Cabinet Office that he had protested to Mr Waldegrave.

Mr Waldegrave, stung by suggestions he had been given a dressing down by Sir Robin, issued a short statement through Conservative Central Office. He said: "I have seen Sir Robin Butler. He has made no criticism of me or this costing exercise. The exercise was, as he agrees, conducted according to the long-standing rules for which he was originally responsible."

Sir Robin: drew up the rules for civil servants

Baroness Symons, General Secretary of the FDA, the senior civil servants' association, telephoned Sir Robin to protest about the use of civil servants in the document.

Ten years ago, Sir Robin devised the rules which should be followed if Whitehall departments are asked to cost the policies and pledges of their political opponents. His rules appear in a booklet *Guidance on Guidance*.

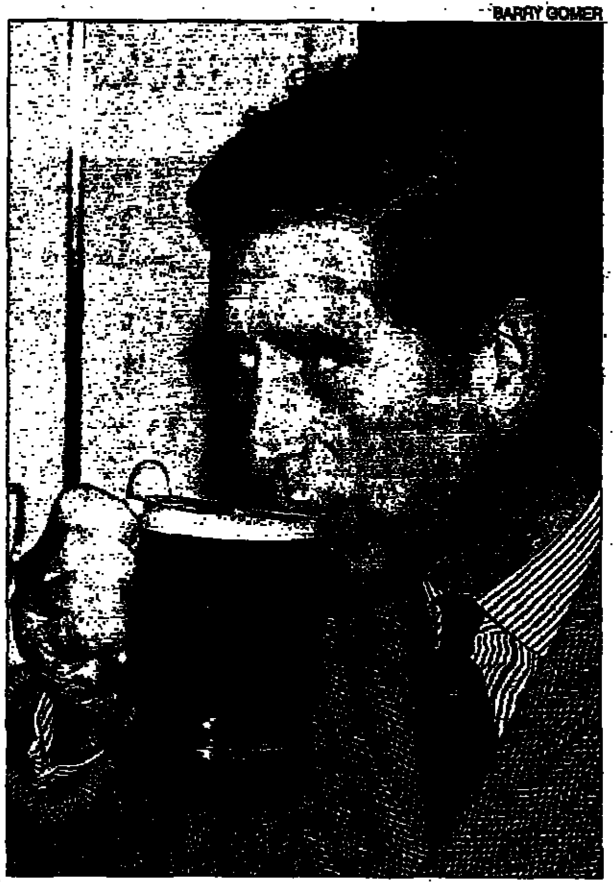
The instructions appear under the heading "Costing the policies of Opposition parties" and say there is no objection to officials providing "factual information".

Labour were quick to condemn the Tory document as "89 new Tory lies". Gordon Brown published a point by point rebuttal of the Tory assertions. "Having lied about their tax plans and raised taxes 22 times against all promises, the Tories are now lying about Labour's tax and spending plans," he said.

The Tories later produced their own rebuttal to Labour's counter claims. As the allegations descended deeper into farce, Conservative Central Office produced a further defence of their original claims insisting the "costing is right" on each of the 89 points.

Labour denial, page 12

BARRY GOMER



The Prince tastes the award-winning bitter yesterday

Prince behind bar to sample Jail Ale

THE Prince of Wales sampled Dartmoor Jail Ale yesterday in a specially created bar at which he was the only customer. A pint of the award-winning dark bitter was pulled for him when he arrived at a tiny brewery in Princetown, Devon, during a flurry of snow.

The brewers, Philip Davis and Simon Loveless, erected a three-pump bar for his visit. As he lifted a glass tankard full of the bitter, the Prince joked: "I don't want to get the froth on the end of my nose."

After his tasting, he was presented with 48 bottles of ale brewed for him. The labels bore a royal crown together with the initials HRH.

"They are the only 48 bottles of this beer in the world," Mr Davis said, adding that the bitter became stronger as it aged. The brewery, leased from the Duchy of Cornwall, is only yards from the Prince of Wales Inn.

Euro row

Continued from page 1

taken on the floor of the House. The committee, which has overall charge of the way the Commons handles European affairs, disagreed with ministers that the documents had been scrutinised. It declared that in its view the documents had not yet been dealt with and asked for them to go to the full House.

The move left the Government again in confrontation with backbenchers from all sides of the Commons. Tony Newton, the Commons leader, will face a rough ride this afternoon if he declines to back down.

Miss Boothroyd had earlier intervened after unusual scenes in a Commons committee room yesterday morning when Euro-sceptics trooped in to join the normally tranquil proceedings of European Standing Committee B as it discussed a series of regulations relating to the introduction of the euro. The interlopers were not allowed to vote but they continued to demand that the matter be heard in the Commons rather than the committee itself.

When the committee members themselves came to vote on the documents John Whittingdale, Conservative MP for Colchester South and Maldon, sided with Opposition MPs to defeat the Government by seven votes to six.

More than 50 MPs of all parties, but mainly Tory Euro-sceptics, went along to the meeting to urge the chairman Sir James Molyneaux to adjourn proceedings so that the debate could be heard in the House. Some Conservatives claim that the Government wants to keep the issue out of the spotlight to prevent Kenneth Clarke, the pro European Chancellor, having to answer sensitive questions.

[redacted]

Major fears 'sticky patch' in Ulster talks

British and Irish ministers met in Belfast last night amid growing gloom about the multiparty talks at Stormont. Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, used the first Anglo-Irish conference since July to voice his fears that Unionists were obstructing the talks.

John Major met loyalist politicians for 90 minutes at Downing Street. He conceded that the talks had run into a "sticky patch and we must wait and see how we get out of that". He was told by the loyalists that the decommissioning of terrorist weapons could lead to the collapse of the Stormont discussions. The Irish Government and the SDLP are concerned that Unionists want to use Sinn Fein's absence from the talks to insist that the IRA must decommission some weapons before Sinn Fein can join negotiations on substantive issues.

DPP chief fights back

Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has sought to defuse mounting criticisms of the Crown Prosecution Service with a letter to all its staff denouncing a BBC2 programme as "selective and unbalanced". She warned that the programme, shown last night as part of a series called *The Verdict*, might be "hostile". It claims the CPS downgrades charges so they are heard in the less expensive magistrates' courts.

Lottery lays golden Eigg

The National Lottery Heritage Fund pledged to support the people of Eigg in their attempt to buy the Hebridean island. The five-mile long island was put up for sale for £2 million by its present owner, Marlin Eckhart Maruma, a German artist, in August. As well as the purchase price, the trust set up to bid for the island is seeking funds to implement development and business plans for the area. Financial support is expected to be substantial, possibly about 75 per cent.

Labour chooses teacher

Jeff Ennis, a 44-year-old teacher and local council leader, has been named as Labour candidate for the Barnsley East by-election to be held on December 12. Party whips moved the writ for the poll in the Commons yesterday. The by-election for the South Yorkshire mining seat was caused by the death last month of the sitting MP Terry Patchett, who had a 24,777 majority at the last election. If Labour retains the seat, the Government will lose its Commons majority of one.

Army's Big Mac attack

Orders received by soldiers on the radio network at the Colchester barracks of 24 Airmobile Brigade had more to do with beef than bull. New Dutch headphones used by the staff of the local McDonald's to take orders from drive-in customers interfered with the military frequencies. Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry's Radio Communications Agency visited the restaurant, in Stanway, Essex, and warned staff not to use unlicensed radio systems.

Ministers urged to produce new ideas

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR has told the Cabinet to come up with some fresh, and more radical, ideas for the Conservative Party manifesto in case he is forced into a snap general election early next year.

Ministers have been asked to submit new policies within the next three weeks to Norman Blackwell, head of the Downing Street policy unit. Mr Blackwell will consult other members of the policy unit in December before drawing up the final document over Christmas.

The search for more far reaching ideas follows a series of high level meetings between Mr Major, Michael Howard, Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and Mr Blackwell. The Prime Minister is still hoping to delay the general election until May, but he knows that Labour will use every opportunity to force an earlier poll. The Tories' slim majority is expected to be wiped out by the forthcoming by-elections in Barnsley East and Wirral South.

Although ministers produced a raft of ideas for the manifesto in July, they have now been asked to go back to their departments to think again. Party strategists say that as many of the ideas were announced at the party conference, ministers needed to come up with fresh proposals. Downing Street is also anxious to maintain the momentum and demonstrate that the party has not run out of steam after 17 years.

The new proposals must fit into the theme, "Opportunity for all", which was launched at the party conference in October with a vivid portrayal of Mr Major's humble beginnings in Brixton.

The programme is aimed at Middle England voters — the key group for which both Labour and the Tories are vying — and is expected to focus on health, education and employment. Strategists are keen to translate Margaret Thatcher's property-owning democracy into an "opportunity-owning democracy".

Policies are likely to include encouraging savings and cutting capital gains and inheritance taxes. The manifesto will also include a pledge to increase spending on health and plans to help the elderly with the cost of nursing homes. More law and order measures are also expected, including those dropped from the Queen's Speech, such as the national identity card.

CORRECTION

The sale of an unrecorded sketchleaf from Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* (report, November 19) takes place at Sotheby's in London on December 6.

SEE PAGE 43 FOR AN EXCLUSIVE HOTEL OFFER FOR EUROSTAR TRAVELLERS

THE TIMES
eurostar
TOKEN 22

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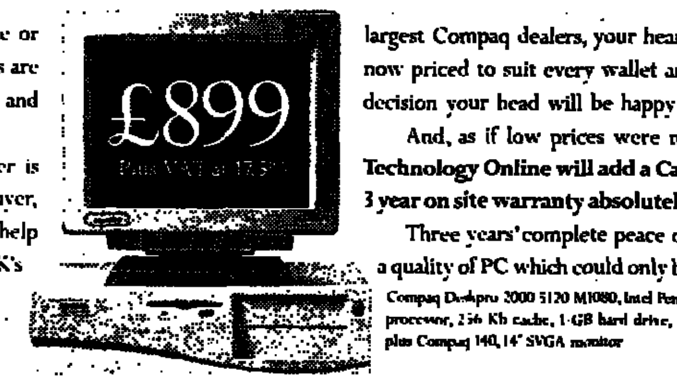

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Judge calls for truce in battle of the listed wall

Anne Kissel: she lost her case against the council

Neighbour's case 'without foundation'

By Emma Wilkins

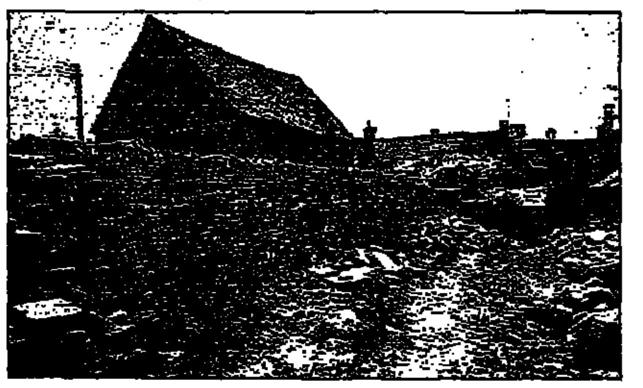
A HIGH COURT judge has called for a ceasefire in a ten-year legal battle over a stone wall dividing two medieval homes in a Cotswold town.

With both sides now tens of thousands of pounds poorer, the judge said yesterday that he hoped the argument which had raged in Chipping Campden — "a town of great charm and attraction" — should be laid to rest.

Anne Kissel, a recently qualified solicitor, had just lost the latest round in the battle of the wall. She was described by Rowland Rodgers, a garage proprietor, as "one of the worst neighbours in the country", who had caused a ten-year "living nightmare of litigation".

Mr Justice Scott Baker rejected her claim that Cotswold District Council was wrong in law when it retrospectively granted Mr Rodgers listed building consent for the raising of the height of the wall at Poppetts, his medieval farmhouse home in the High Street. The judge dismissed her argument that Mr Rodgers should have been prosecuted by the authority for demolishing and rebuilding the dry-stone wall, changing its character to a wet-stone wall, without consent.

A further blow came when the judge ordered Mrs Kissel, who lives next door at 16th-century Twine House, to pay the council's legal costs, estimated at between £5,000 and £10,000, on an indemnity basis — the highest level at which costs can be awarded. The judge made the punitive order after Timothy Straker, QC, for the council, argued that Mrs Kissel had pursued the case as part of her "hobby" regarding listed buildings.



The listed wall over which Mrs Kissel objected

She had also pursued the case even though work on the wall had been done at her instigation after earlier court action. Gregory Jones, her counsel, accused the council of applying for the increased costs order as an act of oppression, seeking revenge against Mrs Kissel for bringing yesterday's action.

The judge observed that Mrs Kissel was "no stranger" to judicial review applications in the High Court, having launched proceedings against another neighbour over the demolition of another wall.

Rejecting her challenge, Mr Justice Scott Baker said the council had acted "entirely properly". It was Mrs Kissel who wanted the wall rebuilt and it had been done to a standard that satisfied the local authority — and there was some doubt as to whether it properly qualified as a dry-stone wall in the first place.

"She has caused a great deal of time to be spent by the council and no doubt some aggravation to its officers and also to her neighbour. Her claim on careful examination is without foundation and it is to be hoped the matter will now be laid to rest," he said.

Mrs Kissel was refused leave to appeal, but could still take her application to the Court of Appeal. Mr Rodgers said later: "I am very pleased it has worked out like this. Mrs Kissel is one of the worst neighbours in the country. She has cost me tens of thousands of pounds over the past ten years in litigation. I hope she backs off now."

Mrs Kissel said: "This wall has been belittled by everybody, but it is a Grade II listed building and should be treated as such."

The legal battle with Mr Rodgers had not been all one way as he had also started court actions against her. She added: "Since these proceedings started, I have been subjected to various abusive telephone calls and I don't know where they have come from."

In Chipping Campden some were toasting Mr Rodgers's success. Roger Fowle, 56, said: "Everyone in the town except Mrs Kissel was delighted when Rowland took over this cottage. She has opposed him every step of the way. The whole episode has changed him completely. He used to be happy-go-lucky but now he's always on edge."

Sally Lindner, a town and district councillor, said: "Mr Rodgers has done everything by the book. But she is just obsessive. Her actions have ruined his life. She is obsessed with listed buildings. She wants everything to be the way it was, without any compromise. Everyone knows that is impossible, except her."

Rowland Rodgers: he raised the height of the wall

Vet who mistreated dogs banned from practising

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

A VET was banned from practising yesterday after a disciplinary committee decided she had caused unnecessary suffering to alsatian dogs in her care.

One animal was found with a foot missing and an ear ripped off; another had a severely swollen and infected head; and others were found licking moisture off windowpanes to slake their thirst. Two dogs had to be put down.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons told Helen Hein, 69, of Amberwell Kennels, Guildford, Surrey, that she was "unfit to practise veterinary surgery" and that the registrar had been directed to remove her name from the register. She had had 140 dogs in her care.

Jeremy Lucke, chairman of the college's disciplinary panel, said: "It is the clear that not only were you the custodian of a large number of dogs without adequate staffing or resources to care for them properly, you were also acting in a professional capacity to those animals in your care. The committee has no doubt this resulted in unnecessary suffering."

The committee was told that Miss Hein, a former Ministry of Agriculture vet, had been found guilty by Farnham Magistrates in March of mistreating dogs in her care. She had been barred from having custody of any dogs for seven years and fined £250 for unlawfully keeping a breeding establishment.

In a statement after the two-day disciplinary hearing, Miss Hein said: "I have never considered that I have been cruel to my dogs or caused unnecessary suffering."

The committee was shown video footage of Miss Hein's house, taken by RSPCA inspectors. Members were told that Miss Hein kept 140 alsatians in the house, which was littered with urine-soaked newspaper.

Inspector Alison MacVicar told the panel: "To get into the kitchen you had to climb up onto a raised paving slab, climb in through the window, and onto a metal dustbin."

Inside she had found 18 dogs, among them four-year-old Cuddly, which later had to be put down. "Cuddly was very depressed. He had great difficulty moving. He seemed disabled on his back legs and he could only bunny hop using his front legs to pull himself along. His eyes were very weepy. He had been bitten on his face."

Another dog, Zinta, was found in the lavatory compartment of a caravan. "Zinta had her right ear missing and her hind right foot was missing. It was a stump which was very red and raw." The leg was later amputated.

Matthew Scott, for Miss Hein, said that she was "a person who is overworked, foolish, unwise and frightened but without any desire to cause any suffering to animals". He added: "It is only because of the extraordinary love that Dr Hein had for her dogs that she allowed herself to fall into the position where she perhaps had more animals than she could have properly coped with."

Watercolour fetches a record £826,500

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

A PICTURE by a little-known 19th-century painter broke the world auction record for any British watercolour yesterday. John Frederick Lewis's *Lilium Auratum* sold for £826,500 at Sotheby's in London.

The price doubled the previous record, held by Turner's *Hampton Court Palace*, which fetched £473,000 at Sotheby's in 1990.

Such was the competition that bidding, by telephone, lasted for several minutes. Five potential buyers sent the price leaping by £10,000 as they ignored the estimate of £350,000 to £500,000. The buyer was anonymous.

The watercolour depicts two Oriental girls in the walled garden of a harem. Its use of luminous colour and light shows Lewis at his best. The artist (1805-76) specialised in Oriental and Mediterranean subjects captured in great detail. He made his name in England in the 1820s as an animal painter whose style is reminiscent of Landseer. He spent ten years in Cairo from 1841, during which time he did not exhibit any works. The novelist Thackeray visited him there and noted that he had taken on a "dreamy, hazy, lazy, tobaccofied life".

Simon Taylor, a senior director of Sotheby's, said Lewis rarely came on the market: "He was a fantastic artist. In the late 1970s he held the record for Victorian painting. Serious collectors really go for them. His work has an absolute radiance to it. He gets that Eastern, hot sunlight."

A detail from the John Frederick Lewis picture

Killer had affair with Radio One disc jockey

By A Staff Reporter

THE woman who killed Rachael Lean had a sexual relationship with a former Radio One disc jockey, a court was told yesterday. Richard Skinner, who now works for Liberty Radio, said that he had met Maria Hnatiuk in a pub in Battersea, south London, in 1990.

After their relationship ended, Mr Skinner received a blackmail threat from Ian Wells, Hnatiuk's new boyfriend. Mr Skinner gave details of his affair with Hnatiuk, 29, in a statement to police that was read out at Norwich Crown Court by Oliver Blunt, QC, her counsel.

Towards the end of 1991, several months after the relationship had ended, Mr Skinner said he had received a telephone call from Mr Wells, who alleged that Mr Skinner had raped Hnatiuk.

In early 1993, shortly after Mr Skinner joined Virgin Radio, Mr Wells rang him again to say that a "financial settlement" would ensure that the rape allegation was not disclosed to the press. Mr Skinner said he then contacted the police.

Hnatiuk has already told the court that the rape allegation against Mr Skinner was a complete fabrication and that Mr Wells had forced her to make it. She also blamed Mr Wells for the killing of Miss Lean — saying that he had incited her to stab the 18-year-old student to death.

Hnatiuk admits manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility but denies murder. The prosecution refuses to accept her plea. Miss Lean's body was found in undergrowth along a country lane near RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, in September last year. The prosecution claim that Hnatiuk may have had a sexual motive for the killing.

Miss Lean lived in the nearby village of Buxton with her father Peter. Hnatiuk, originally from Bristol, had been living in and around Buxton and had befriended Miss Lean shortly before the killing.

Police raid home of Guerin suspect

By Audrey Magee, Ireland correspondent

ARMED Irish police yesterday raided the home of John Gilligan, a self-confessed suspect for the murder of the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin.

The contents of Gilligan's estate and equestrian centre near Enfield, Co Meath, were removed. Furniture, cars, horse trailers and vehicles were taken in lieu of payment of a £2 million tax bill.

Gilligan, 44, is in Belmarsh prison in England on charges of money laundering. He was arrested at Heathrow airport in October carrying £300,000 and was charged by police under anti-drug legislation.

He is the first suspected drug dealer to have his property raided under wide-ranging legislation rushed through the Dublin parliament after the death of the 36-year-old journalist.

Ms Guerin was murdered last June. Gilligan said police suspected that he was involved in her killing but he has denied any involvement.

Nobody has been charged with Ms Guerin's murder. Paul Ward, 32, from Crumlin in Dublin, has been charged with conspiracy to murder the investigative journalist.

Gilligan's wife, Geraldine, said last night that her husband had nothing to do with the murder. She said she understood that people suspected him because the journalist was taking a legal action against him.

Ms Guerin alleged Gilligan assaulted her when she called at the equestrian centre last year. The case came to court shortly after Ms Guerin's murder but was abandoned because of her death.

Mrs Gilligan also told RTE television that she and her husband would be able to prove where the money came from to buy their equestrian centre. Ms Guerin was murdered by two men on at least one motorcycle as she waited in her car at traffic lights on the outskirts of Dublin.

John Traynor, a second self-confessed suspect for the murder and an associate of Gilligan, fled Ireland after Ms Guerin was murdered and has been in Portugal for five months. He denies any involvement.

Self-styled prince left trail of terror in 13 armed robberies

By Stephen Farrell

RICHARD SHOREY tried to cloak his five years of violent armed robberies with an aura of glamour. He falsely claimed to be an African prince, slept with a silver pistol under his bed and boasted to police that he was a criminal tycoon.

But for all his claims of prowess, Shorey, 27, from Harlesden, west London, was caught by police on routine patrol because he could not use the headlights of a stolen getaway car.

Shorey stabbed one deaf and dumb victim 13 times for having no cash. Yesterday he was jailed at the Old Bailey for 14 years after admitting 13 robberies that netted £250,000.

Shorey's final wave of criminal activity began in 1991. After release from prison for spraying a policeman with ammonia he became the "bag man" on a jewellery shop robbery in west London.

He graduated to being the gunman on other robberies and in May 1992 came to the notice of the underworld by escaping with £110,000 in gold and cash from a jewellery store in west London.

There followed a series of attacks on supermarkets, houses and a security van. He later admitted stabbing the deaf and dumb man because "I intended to do somebody serious harm and he just happened to be passing". He handcuffed a woman aged 72 in a raid on a house and locked her in a small cupboard. He pistol-whipped a jeweller whose wife tore his £500 designer jacket. The man needed 32 stitches.

He was caught after stealing a taxi driver's wallet and driving off in the car without the headlights on. A patrol car gave chase. Shorey, who has a jewel embedded in a gold tooth, told police: "I view myself as a tycoon. I was only interested in money, I wanted lots of it piled up all around me."

Judge Boal, QC, told him: "You were a ruthless and determined armed robber who committed serious crimes whenever you needed money. For five years robbery was your way of life. Each of your victims must have feared for their lives."

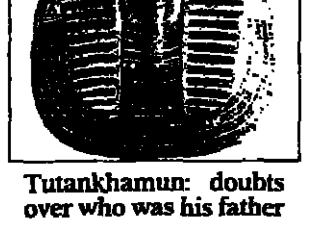
Scientists unravel Pharaohs' sex lives

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

DNA from ancient Egyptian mummies is to be used to investigate the sex lives of the Pharaohs. Among the questions Egyptologists hope to answer is whether the Pharaoh Akhenaten was the father of Tutankhamun.

The study may also show the extent to which the various Egyptian dynasties practised incest, as well as whether fresh genes entered the royal bloodlines through relationships with commoners.

The project, based at Manchester Museum and a medical company in Arlington, Virginia, aims to build up a tissue bank of material from mummies, using their blood, muscle and internal organs. The hope is that the Cairo Museum, the leading museum of Egyptology, will also be involved in the project. Tissue taken from as many mummies as possible will be taken to Manchester Museum, where the project is coordinated by Rosalie David, Keeper of Egyptology. The team hopes to carry out DNA fingerprinting to establish the relationships between the mummies.



Tutankhamun: doubts over who was his father

The first project, *New Scientist* magazine reports, will be a study of the parasitic disease schistosomiasis, still prevalent in Egypt. This disease is carried by blood flukes, which have already been found in several mummies.

Proving the relationship between the boy Pharaoh Tutankhamun and Akhenaten is another possibility, albeit more distant. Reference books declare that Tutankhamun was Akhenaten's son-in-law but some experts have suggested that he may have been his son.

Akhenaten is believed to have had Fröhlich's syndrome, an inherited disorder caused by disturbed function of the pituitary gland. Tutankhamun does not appear to have suffered the condition.

No mummy of Akhenaten exists so direct DNA comparison is impossible. But if Tutankhamun turns out to carry a copy of the Fröhlich's gene, it would strengthen those who believe that he was the son of Akhenaten.

Both Akhenaten and Tutankhamun were pharaohs in the New Kingdom and ruled Egypt in the 14th century BC.

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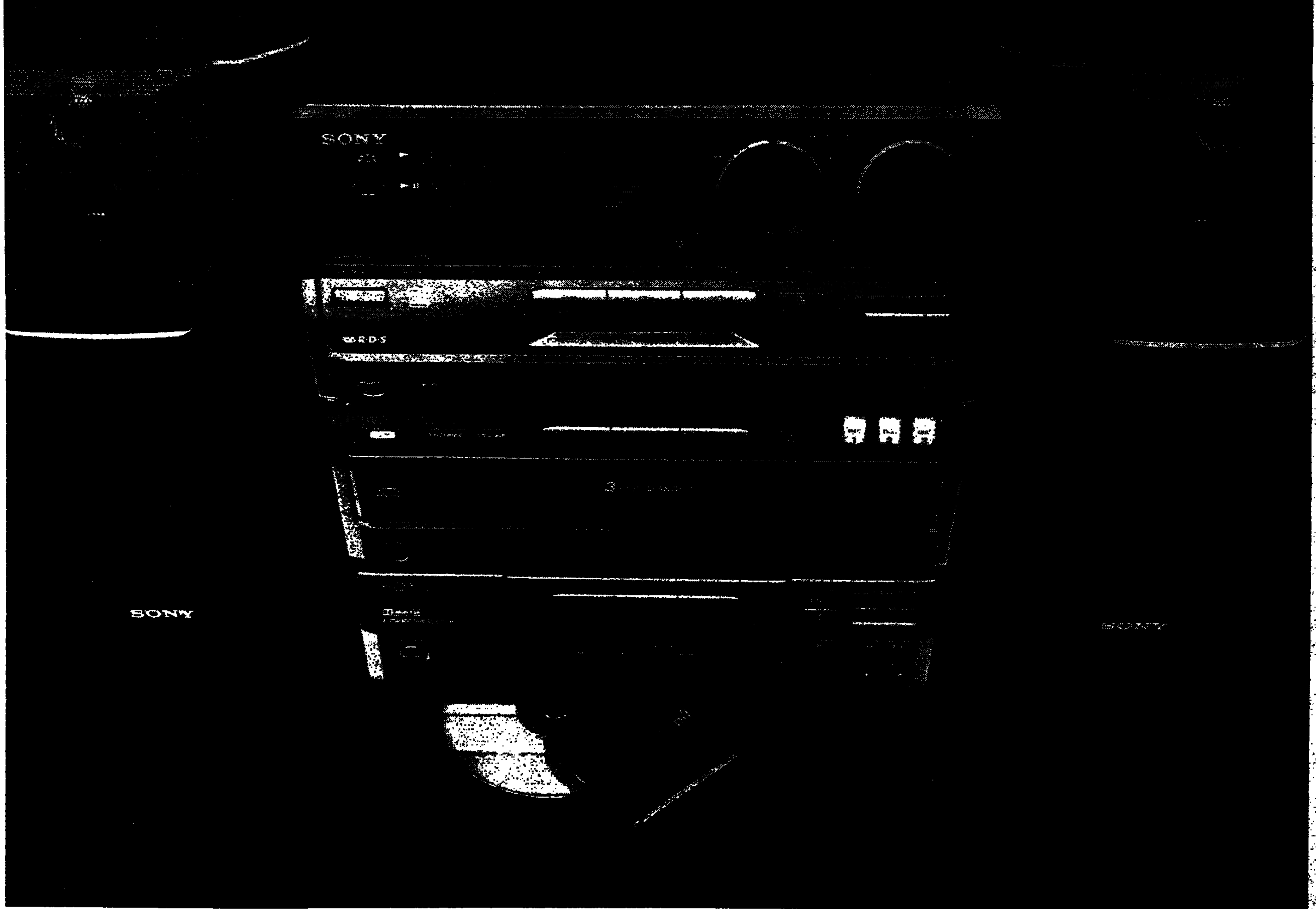

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Councillors ban 'distasteful' film

Westminster calls for scenes to be cut from Crash

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

David Cronenberg, director of Crash. Councillors believed that his film could encourage copycat incidents

WESTMINSTER council yesterday banned the controversial film *Crash* from its cinemas unless the British Board of Film Censors gives it an 18-certificate and insists on cuts.

The film, which explores sexual gratification over car crashes and the supposed attraction of mutilated bodies, contains three scenes which the 12 councillors on the licensing sub-committee found too distasteful. They called on the board of censors to cut a scene in which a man has intercourse with a woman whose scarred legs are in calipers, and to remove one of the character's lines about car crashes being "fertilising and not destructive". They also took offence over the final sex scene involving a blood-spattered and bruised woman.

At a meeting after a private screening at Columbia Tristar, the distributors, the councillors voiced concern that impressionable teenagers might be inspired to re-enact scenes from the film. Anne Barns, one of the councillors, said: "I didn't enjoy it at all. I am extremely worried about the impact it might have on 18 or 19-year-olds who think themselves very clever and tend to like fast cars, and probably put two and two together and possibly try things out. I would certainly ask for an 18 certificate if we cannot ban it."

Dr David Avery, another councillor, said: "I certainly don't think this is a film which will encourage crime or disorder or racial hatred against any section of society. I would have thought it was allowable viewing for adults if they don't mind degradation and violence towards women."

The final decision was made at a 45-minute meeting by three councillors under the chairmanship of John Bull. He said: "The committee has serious concerns about the film. It is clearly better for the film to be awarded a national certificate and we hope, therefore, the BBFC will properly address councillors' concerns.

"However, the sub-committee would be reluctant for the film to be shown in Westminster in the form shown today. To preserve the council's position, we have decided as a purely interim measure to prohibit the film showing in Westminster. We will reconsider as soon as possible after the BBFC decision." Mr Bull added: "It's a good film. It's exceedingly well made. If you are asking me personally whether I enjoyed the film, I can be quite honest, I could live without it."

Jeremy Thomas, *Crash*'s executive producer, told the councillors that the film had won the special jury prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival and that it had been accepted worldwide. "There has not been one copycat incident and traffic statistics have remained static," he said.

Hearing the verdict, Chris Auty, co-executive producer of the film, said: "All we really want is that our work of art, which is how we think of this film from the bottom of our hearts, gets the opportunity to be seen in an uncut form by the British public."

A BBFC spokeswoman said: "We are in the process of getting our 22 examiners to see it. We are unable to say whether our decision will be announced in two weeks or a month or more."

It was Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, who prompted Westminster's action. She drew attention to the fact that, under the Cinemas Act of 1985, local authorities have the powers to ban any film within their area. Her spokeswoman said: "She didn't think it was suitable."

Film reviews, pages 37, 38

Connery breaks his bond with Whitehall

By Shirley English

SEAN CONNERY, who risked life and limb for Her Majesty's Government as James Bond, will call on fellow Scots tonight to abandon rule from Westminster.

Mr Connery, 66, stars in a party political broadcast by the Scottish National Party, urging his countrymen to build on the return of the Stone of Scone to Scotland by *voting for independence and a* Scottish Parliament. The Edinburgh-born actor has been an SNP member since 1991, although he lives in Spain and rarely visits his native land.

In the television broadcast, he claims that the 410lb sandstone slab, the ancient coronation stone of Scottish Kings, removed by the English 700 years ago, was returned to Scotland last week only *because of "jitters" in London.*

The stone will be handed back on St Andrew's Day, November 30, when it makes a ceremonial journey up the Royal Mile to the Crown Room of Edinburgh Castle.

Mr Connery says: "We need more than stones in Scotland. We need real power and a real parliament. The return of the stone is the result of pressure from Scotland for change. London is worried about the mood of Scotland and the overwhelming desire for a parliament. London is beginning to hear us and to pay attention."

SATURDAY

IN THE TIME

DEAR DR ZHIVAGO . . .

The letters that reveal the real love story behind Dr Zhivago, in the ***Magazine***

SMALL AND CHIC

Where the petite can find the perfect fit, in Weekend

PLUS

JANE *MACQUITTY'S* TOP 100 WINES

WEEKEND MONEY: OUR AWARD-WINNING PERSONAL FINANCE GUIDE

7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE

Hawking's TV history of time

By Carol Midgley

PROFESSOR Stephen Hawking is to present a BBC series on the history of the universe.

The six-part series, which has been almost three years in the making, is based on his theories in his bestselling book *A Brief History of Time*. It will be screened on BBC2 next summer.

Professor Hawking, who suffers from motor neurone disease and uses a voice synthesiser to speak, has selected most of the scientists who will appear. *Stephen Hawking's Universe* will trace theories from Galileo through Einstein to the present day. The crew is currently filming in the United States.

Among other documentaries announced by the BBC yesterday was a 24-part history of the Cold War produced by Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the retiring chief executive of the Royal Opera House, who produced *The World At War*. Sir David Attenborough is following his *Private Life Of Plants* with *Life of Birds* on BBC1.

Editor of Punch is dismissed

By Carol Midgley

THE man entrusted with raising *Punch* magazine from the dead was sacked yesterday after two months as editor. The decision to dismiss Peter McKay followed "contractual differences" over his column in the *Daily Mail*.

The satirical magazine was given a £3 million relaunch in September, courtesy of Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods. Stewart Steven, chairman of the publisher Liberty, said that he was sorry to lose Mr McKay, a former *Evening Standard* columnist and editor of *Sunday Today*.

Mr Steven said: "I appointed Peter McKay as editor of *Punch* and it is therefore with regret that this decision had to be taken. My confidence and the confidence of this company and everybody involved in the future of *Punch* remains total."

He was acting as editor until a successor could be found. Mr McKay was not available for comment.

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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS

English teenagers slump in world maths league

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

5H controversy broke out education standards yes- ty, as an international y showed English teen- s sliding down the world ue in mathematics but roving in science.

ests of 13-year-olds in 41 ntries showed English pu- well below the average in thematics. The results, first closed in *The Times* in ie, showed England slip- g from 3 per cent above the ernational norm in 1990 to 3 cent below last year.

English pupils came out orly in all areas of mathe- tics, apart from probability d data representation. Boys d girls were well behind eir counterparts in most her countries in the basics of actions and number work.

In science, however, Eng- nd was on a par with Japan, ith about one in six pupils in e top 10 per cent internation- lly. Pupils were above the lobal average in physics, hemistry, environmental, arth and life science.

The findings reignited the dispute over standards which greeted yesterday's school league tables for England and Wales. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said the evidence from industry was of falling standards. She complained that pidgin French and German were being taught to pupils, and teachers were accepting answers in mathematics lessons that were sometimes incomplete. "The Education Department says that literacy and numeracy skills have improved, but they are still dire," Ms Lea told a press conference in London.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the Third International Mathematics and Science Study showed English schools were not doing well enough in mathematics, but the Government was already taking action.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said the study showed standards in mathematics were falling and Britain was lagging badly behind most of its international competitors. "This is an appalling league table indictment for the Tories, who have had 18 years to raise standards."

England was sixteenth out of 25 countries where the groups of pupils taking tests in mathematics were considered comparable. Singapore was clearly top, with France, Hong Kong and Ireland among the countries overtaking since the last survey.

The 3,500 pupils taking the tests in English schools got more than half the questions wrong in algebra and proportionality. In the highest-scoring countries, mainly in the Far East, pupils were getting at least four out of five right.

Researchers involved in the project said it was impossible to tell why England's position had plummeted. Among the possible causes to be investigated for a follow-up report next spring are the style of teaching and the length of time devoted to the subject.

Dr Wendy Keys, a member of the team from the National Foundation for Educational Research responsible for the British end of the project, said pupils were spending about 20 minutes less on mathematics than when the last survey was carried out. The time allotted to science had risen by about the same amount.

Dr Seamus Heggarty, another member of the team, said that, although England's international standing was lower, the tests could not demonstrate whether absolute standards had declined. He said there was little evidence of under-achievement in England. The range of schools was similar to that in most comparable countries, but too many were concentrated towards the bottom of the scale.

In science, only five countries exceeded the English pupils' performance. Singapore was again the top nation, with the Czech Republic, Japan, Korea and Hungary the others ahead of England.

Education, page 44

QUESTIONS OUR PUPILS GOT WRONG

1 (number sense): a person's heart is beating 72 times a minute. At this rate, about how many times does it beat in one hour? a: 20,000; b: 42,000; c: 4,200; d: 420.

Fewer than half of the English pupils chose the correct answer, compared with two thirds in all the countries surveyed.

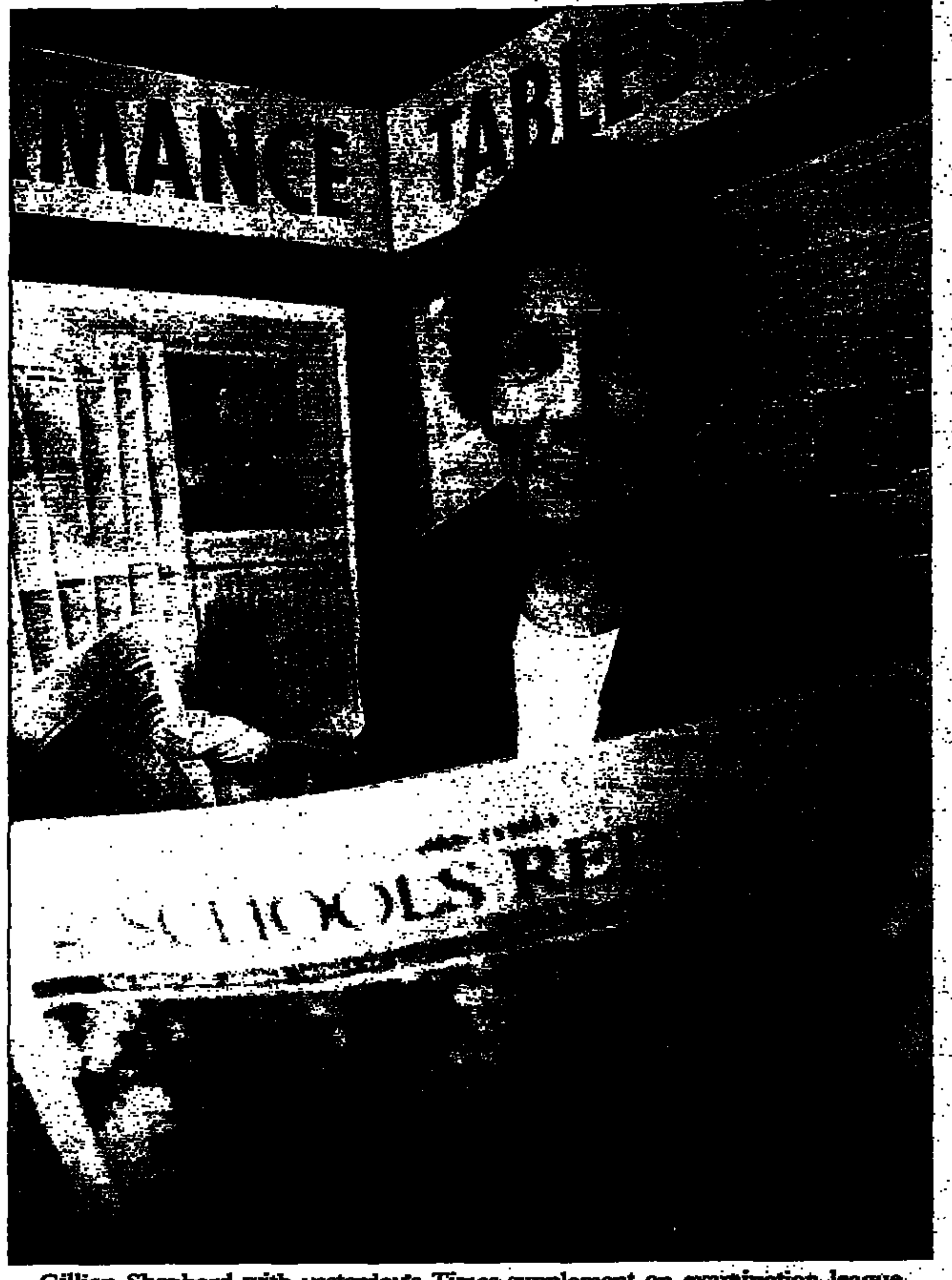
2 (algebra): if M represents a positive number, which of these is equivalent to $M + M + M + M$? a: $M + 4$: b: $4M$: c: M^4: d: $4(M + 1)$.

Only 41.6 per cent of English pupils in year 9 chose correctly, against 81.6 per cent for the highest-scoring country.

3 (proportionality): a class has 28 students. The ratio of girls to boys is 4:3. How many girls are in the class?

English pupils in year 9 did better than the median country, with 41.9 per cent getting the correct answer (the median was 36.9 per cent). But they were still far behind the top-scoring country, which achieved 91.5 per cent.

Answers: c, b, 16



CHRIS HARRIS

Gillian Shephard with yesterday's *Times* supplement on examination league tables. She conceded that English pupils were not doing well in mathematics

Inspectors link boring lessons to expulsions

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS will be ordered by inspectors today to curb the rising number of expulsions by trying harder to interest difficult pupils instead of giving up on them.

Ofsted, the school inspection agency, will disclose wide variations between the numbers of pupils expelled by similar schools in inner-city areas. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, believes head teachers with high expulsion rates should be more willing to try alternative solutions such as vocational courses. He says the number of boring lessons does nothing to halt the total of expelled children, which has quadrupled since 1990 to more than 12,000 a year.

However, Mr Woodhead says the dumping of unruly children by grammar and grant-maintained schools on local authority comprehensives could not be blamed for creating a sink school like The Ridings in Halifax.

Writing in *The Times* today, he says that one of Halifax's schools would have been bottom of the local pecking order, whether or not there were grammar and grant-maintained schools in the town. "If parents have the right to choose their children's schools, some schools are going to prove more popular than others, and one is likely to become the most unpopular of all."

His words will heighten tension between Ofsted, the inspection agency, and Calderdale council. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, yesterday accused council officials of trying to avoid a full inspection by Ofsted, which she wants to start next month.

Ofsted can inspect a school only if invited by the local authority. But Mrs Shephard said that if Calderdale continued to delay its invitation, she would order an inspection of more of its schools. Michael Higgins, chairman of education in Calderdale, said that he would welcome an inspection next year but the authority's priority was to devote its energies to the recovery of The Ridings.

Chris Woodhead, page 22

Parents given bleeps to find truant pupils

BY TIM JONES

PARENTS of pupils who play truant have been issued with radio pagers that will inform them within seconds if their children have absconded. The pagers have already proved their worth at Highbury Grove School in Islington, north London, where the attendance rate of two of three regular truants has improved markedly.

Bromcom, the company behind the scheme, is negotiating with five other schools. It believes the pagers will be vital in tackling truancy, absenteeism and misbehaviour.

Henry Jones, deputy head teacher of Highbury Grove, a boys' school with 1,000 pupils, said: "We do not have a truancy problem here but there are isolated incidents as in most schools." The system, he said, was particularly effective where parents of truants were supportive. He added: "There are some cases when parents collude with their children in their absence and that is harder for us to deal with."

The pagers will be able to operate in scores of schools that use the Electronic Attendance Registration System (EARS). The handheld computer enables teachers to check at roll-call whether a pupil is absent.

Schools equipped with the system will be able to send a message to a central computer, which will automatically relay an instant radio signal to the bleeper carried by the parents. They would be expected to find their children and send them to school.

Bob Bartless of Bromcom said yesterday that the pagers, which cost about £100 a year to run, were a simple technological solution. "They are especially effective in those households where both parents are working and in homes in urban areas, and there are many, which do not have a telephone.

"The use of pagers is part of the drive to make parents more responsible for their children's behaviour and is in line with government and opposition thinking," he added.

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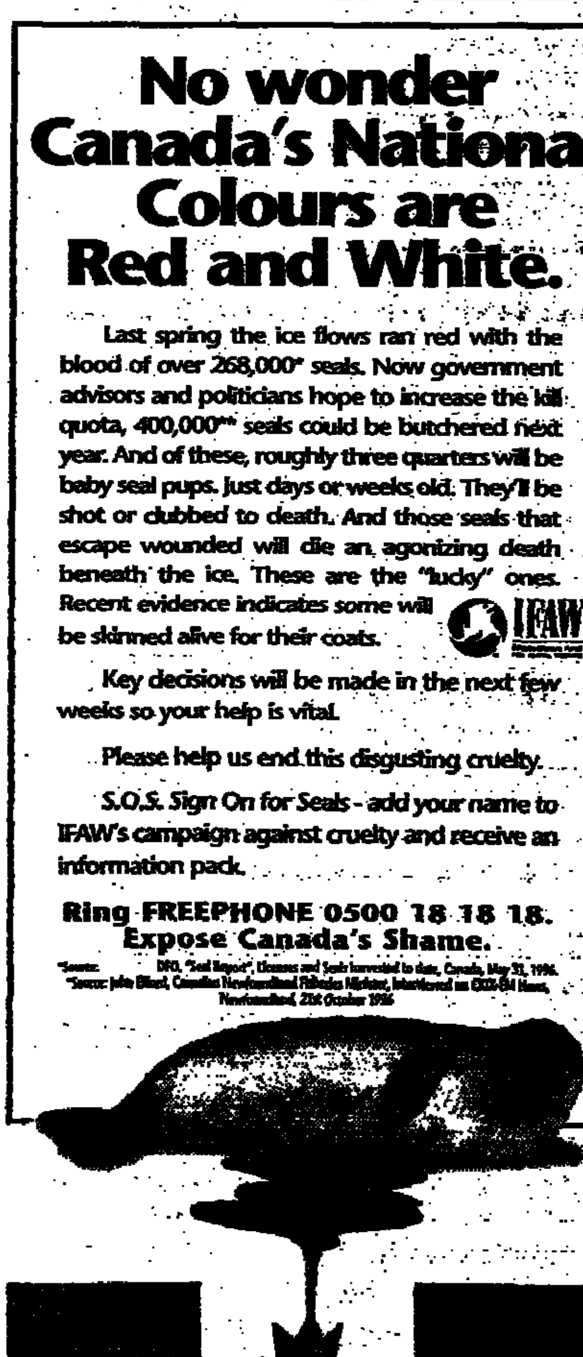

No wonder Canada's National Colours are Red and White.

Last spring the ice flows ran red with the blood of over 268,000* seals. Now government advisors and politicians hope to increase the kill quota, 400,000** seals could be butchered next year. And of these, roughly three quarters will be baby seal pups. Just days or weeks old. They'll be shot or clubbed to death. And those seals that escape wounded will die an agonizing death beneath the ice. These are the "lucky" ones. Recent evidence indicates some will be skinned alive for their coats.

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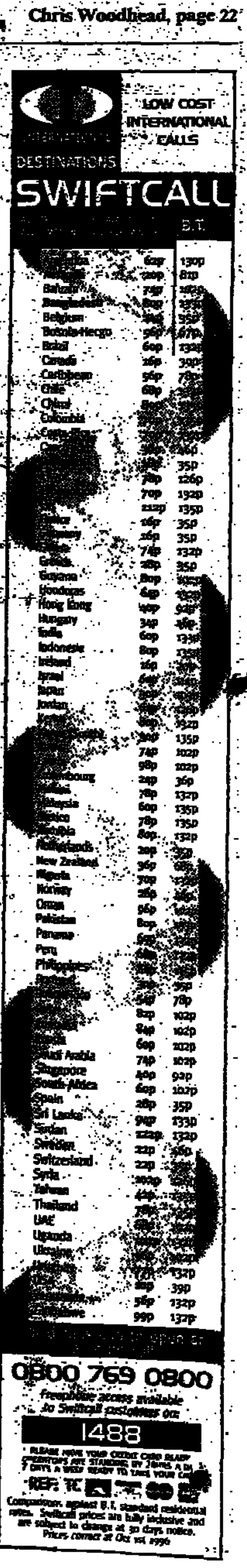
*Source: DFO, "Seal Report", Harp and Seals harvested to date, Canada, May 31, 1996.
**Source: John Efford, Canadian Newfoundland Fisheries Minister, Interviewed on CKIX-AM News, Newfoundland, 21st October 1996



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)rivers hire tough French lawyer for ompensation fight

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

lorry drivers who nar- y escaped death in the nnel Tunnel have hired of France's toughest and flamboyant lawyers to esent them in any legal n arising from the fire.

irty drivers have formed efence committee" repre- ed by Gilbert Collard, a seilles advocate with a for publicity, who most ntly represented the fam- of victims after the mass de last year by members e Solar Temple cult.

want to know exactly t happened this week. We t to establish the truth," M ard, 48, said yesterday. said that he would be stigating security proce- es surrounding the fire seeking to establish legal onsibility for the accident. will be looking into ther the fire was already ing when the train en- d the tunnel and whether tunnel operators knew "

l Collard specialises in -profile cases and has sharply criticised by l colleagues for promoting self into what *Le Monde* ed France's "lawyer show-. The paper complained: impossible to watch any e major French television shows without coming ss him."

epending on the results of French judicial investiga- now under way, Euro- nel or Le Shuttle could face e compensation claims, M lard said. He has regis- d his clients as civil plain- : attached to the invest- tion, meaning that he will e access to all documents ting to the accident.

ach of the drivers has de a statement to French ice as part of the legal uiry launched by the public secutor in Boulogne. M lard said that it was too ly to predict the possible of damages claims, but he ed: "This is a company with considerable financial interests". The French Court of Appeals last week upheld a ruling ordering British Airways to pay more than £3 million in compensation to French passengers taken hostage when their plane landed in Kuwait just hours after the Iraqi invasion in 1990.

Many of the lorry drivers were in tears yesterday after reliving their experience when they were taken to a tunnel depot to collect their personal belongings. Roy Keys, 53, from Tain, Highland, said: "We were escorted one by one to our cabs and allowed to get personal belongings from them. A lot of the drivers are very upset. It's their life in there."

Collard: has reputation for being a show-off

Denis Bracqbien, a French lorry driver living in Scotland, said that many of the passengers had lost their livelihoods. "We are afraid that some people are trying to duck their responsibilities, and we want to have these established quickly.

"We want to obtain a written acceptance of responsibility that we can at least present to insurance companies, because some of us find ourselves completely ruined today, without lorries, money or papers."

Eurotunnel is accommodating the drivers in an hotel in Calais and has asked them not to leave until the investigation into the fire is over. However, some decided to return home last night. Many are self-employed and want to be compensated for loss of earnings.

Mark Ford, 32, a driver from Heathfield, East Sussex, who was taking frozen bread for Sainsbury's from Paris to London, said: "It was shocking to see the truck. I knew it would be pretty bad but I did not realise how bad. Everything was covered in thick soot.

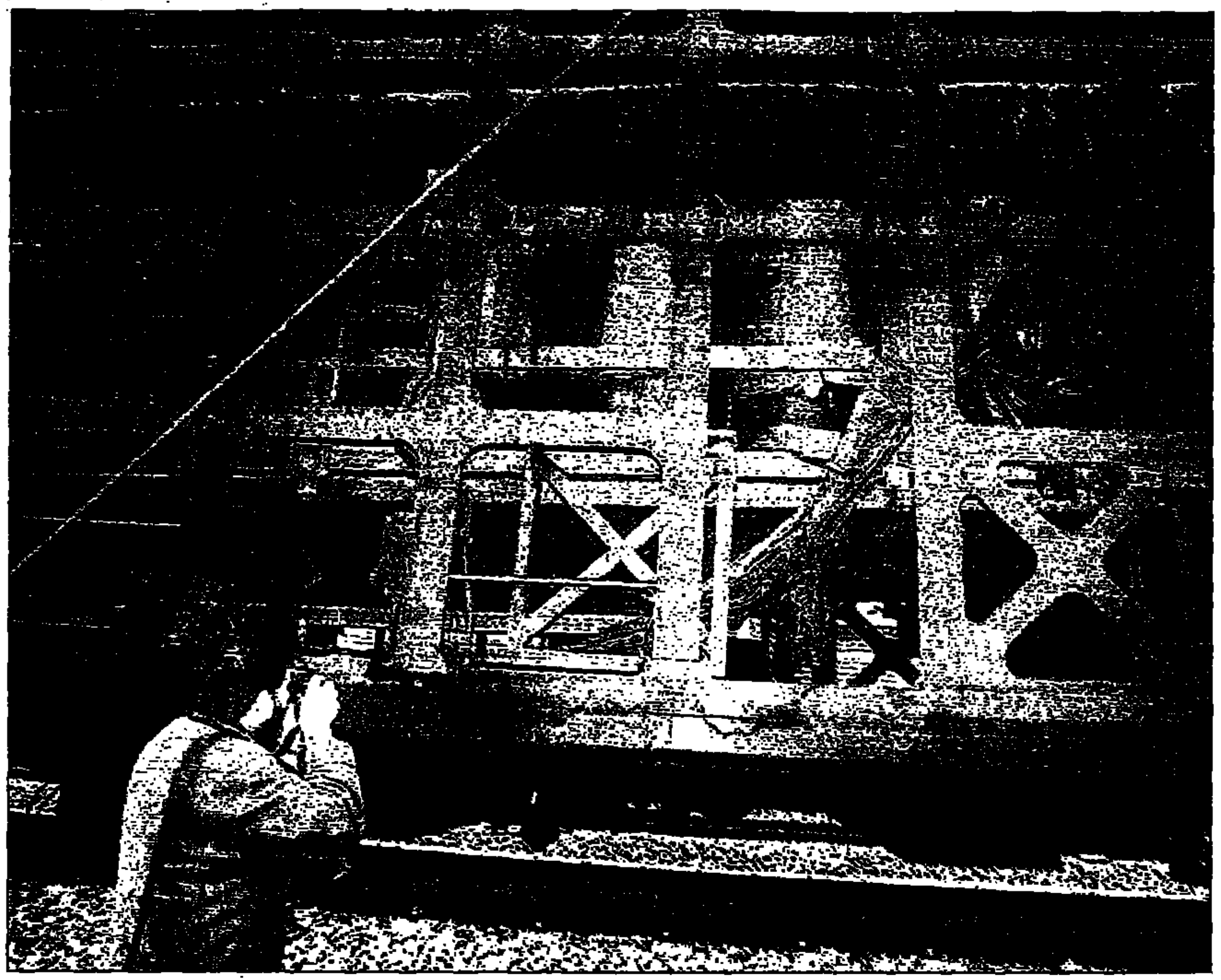
"I think the insurance company will write my truck off. I have lost valuables, but nothing is more valuable than your life. I had photos and teddy bears that my children had given me but they have all been ruined."

□ Lawyers said yesterday that anybody caught in the fire would be better off suing in the English courts (Frances Gibb writes). Ian Walker, a partner with Russell Jones & Walker, said that the English courts tended to award higher damages than in France, and for a broader range of injury.

"The procedure in France is slightly different, with the courts tending to decide the amount of damages on the basis of a court-appointed expert instead of the evidence from experts on both sides," he said. The French courts did not tend readily to recognise psychological injury. A third factor would be the risk of costs, which are unrecoverable in the French courts.

Mr Walker said that he would expect most people caught in the tunnel to have suffered from a substantial degree of post-traumatic stress, for which damages were about £3,000. Claims could be much higher for drivers who might be too frightened to enter the tunnel again.

Letters, page 23


One of the less-damaged wagons: an investigation could lead to damages claims from traumatised passengers

Le Monde buries blaze on page 23

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WHERE the British press has reacted with dismay and anger to the Channel Tunnel fire, the French media has played down the incident, portraying it as a tragedy averted by swift and responsible action by the authorities. *Le Monde* yesterday devoted only two paragraphs to the story on page 23, recording that the tunnel's closure had been extended.

Only one national newspaper criticised the handling of the blaze. On Tuesday French television stations broadcast footage of earlier trial-runs for emergency evacuations, showing calm and smiling "passengers" being led to safety. News reports insisted "all the necessary safety procedures were complied with". *Le Parisien* offered the headline: "How a catastrophe was avoided" on a story relegated to page 13.

The single exception was *France-Soir*, which attacked Eurotunnel in a front-page editorial for what it called "shameless lies" in statements issued after the blaze.

Company will lose £1m revenue a day

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL faces a bill running into tens of millions of pounds for compensation, repairs and loss of earnings after the Channel Tunnel fire.

For every day that the tunnel is closed the operator will lose about £1 million in revenue. Although that will be covered by an insurance policy that pays out for business interruption, the effect of bad publicity on future business is unquantifiable.

Eurotunnel had expected strong demand for tickets before Christmas and during the new year. As well as missing out on extra sales, the company also has to repair extensive damage to a 600-metre section of the northbound tunnel.

The company said yesterday that it was fully covered. It has to carry what it describes as "high levels of insurance" to meet its contractual agreements with the British and French Governments.

Although compensation payments are likely to total tens of millons, they will be low in comparison with the cost of the 1992 IRA bombing campaign in the City of London (£350 million), the 1985 Manchester air crash (£20 million), and the storms of January 1993 (£100 million).

Eurotunnel will also have to compensate the train operator Eurostar for periods when the tunnel is closed. Eurostar has been running 44 trains a day between Waterloo station and Paris and Brussels and usually carries between 10,000 and 12,000 passengers a day.

Shuttle passengers 'should be separated from their cars'

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE safety of Le Shuttle car trains came under scrutiny yesterday after consumer bodies, safety groups and fire officers called for passengers to be separated from their vehicles in the Channel Tunnel.

Mike Fordham, assistant general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, criticised Eurotunnel and the Government for refusing to redesign passenger shuttle carriages on cost grounds. "That decision is unacceptable," he said.

Unlike freight shuttles, drivers and passengers on the car service sit in their vehicles during the 35-minute crossing. Before departure, giant fire doors divide up the train into "fire proof" compartments. If a fire breaks out, as one did in December 1994, passengers are instructed by Eurotunnel staff to pass into an adjoining compartment through air lock doors to escape the blaze.

The doors are designed to withstand fire for 30 minutes, by which time the train will, it is hoped, have emerged from the other end of the tunnel.

A spray of the inert gas halon from the ceiling of the compartments is also supposed to smother the fire after about ten minutes and there are water foam extinguishers on the train. Only as a last resort will passengers evacuate the train.

Harry Beckingham, a fire adviser to the British Safety Council, said that a fire could trigger chaos. Many passengers would not speak English and there would be blind and disabled people on board.

The ten-member Channel Tunnel Safety Authority has the power to withhold from Eurotunnel permission to operate trains through the tunnel if its safety demands are not met. It has five British and five French members, with the chairmanship alternating annually between heads of the delegations.

Edward Ryder, 65, former Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, is head of the British group and is currently chairman of the authority. The other British members are Peter Moss, a senior Tranport Department civil servant, Jeremy Beech, County Fire Officer of Kent, Sandra Caldwell, senior inspector at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and Vic Colman, the most senior railway safety inspector at the HSE.

Budget Message to Kenneth Clarke

Many organisations and interests have no doubt been sending you their ideas for the Budget next week. ■ You know that charities and voluntary organisations play a vital role in providing a wide range of services to people in need. ■ We believe that all governments, whatever their political colour, have the responsibility to try and set a positive environment within which charities and voluntary organisations can work. ■ Next week's budget gives you the opportunity to do what you can for charity. ■ If you have anything to give away, now is the time to help charities help others. ■ So, why don't you:-

1 Let charities keep the £350 million they currently pay in irrecoverable VAT?

2 Abolish the ceiling on the payroll deduction scheme whereby employees can contribute to charities through their pay packets?

3 Lower the Gift Aid limit?

4 Introduce tax reliefs for people lending money to social investment funds?

5 Cut the red tape surrounding charity trading?

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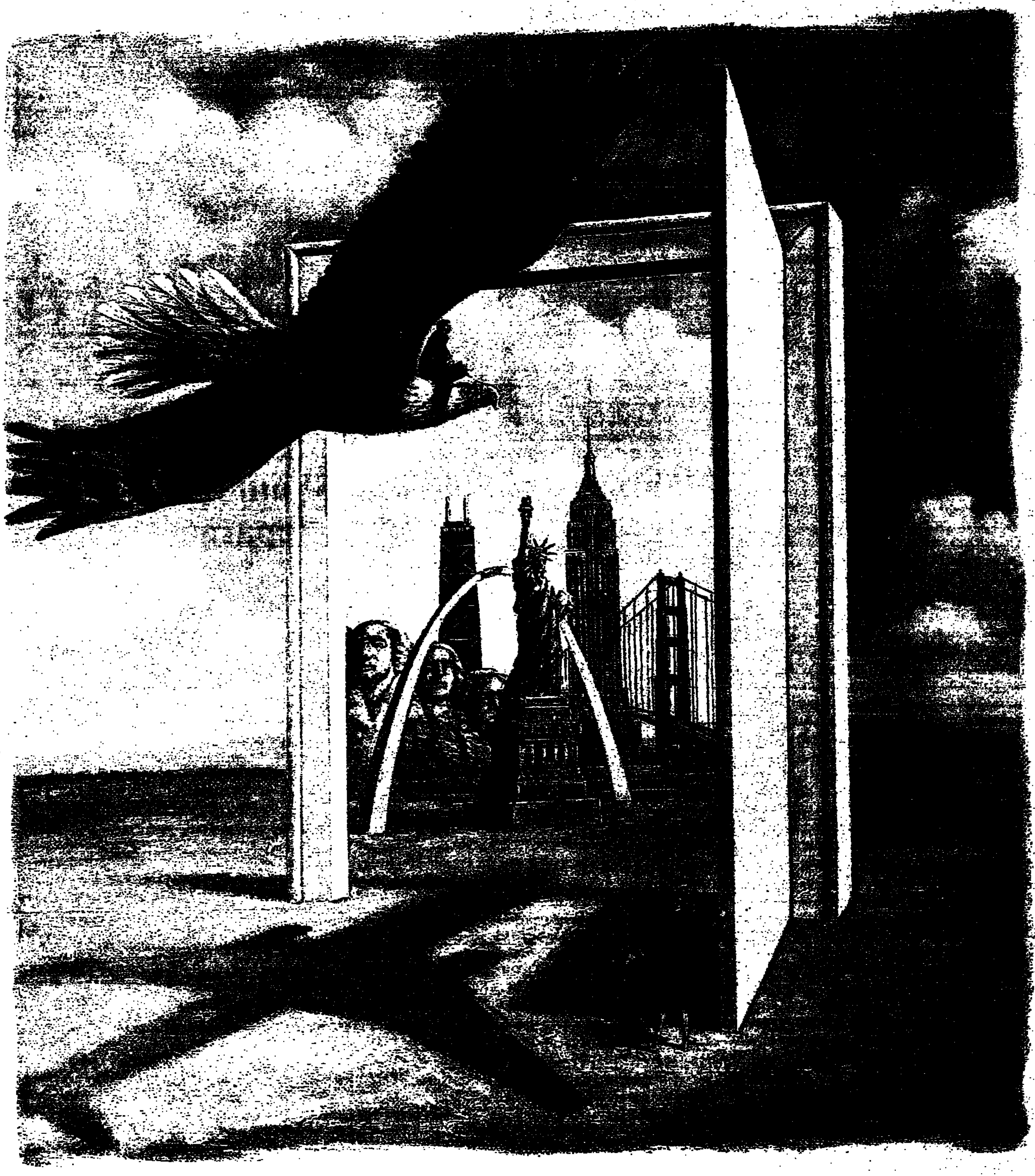

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مكتاب من الاصل

Hattersley before the beak after dog gets the bird

By Bill Frost

ROY HATTERSLEY was in the doghouse yesterday. He was up before the bench after his "exuberant and over-friendly" pet, Buster the Staffordshire bull terrier, inflicted fatal injuries on a goose. Worse, the offence took place in a royal park.

Buster, rescued from Battersea Dogs' Home last year, is very much the apple of his master's eye. Speaking outside his home before yesterday's hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, the former Labour Party deputy leader said that he was sorry for the goose. "Buster has been as good as gold since. He is not quite conscious of what is happening. I haven't punished Buster and will be taking him for a trip in the country."

In a letter to the court Mr Hattersley admitted allowing Buster to worry wildfowl and letting him off the leash, both breaches of the regulations in St James's Park in London. He had lost his grip on the dog's lead while clearing up after him.

Two days after the incident, Mr Hattersley apologised for Buster's actions in a national newspaper. "The goose came out of the bushes first — half flopping and half flying — and came to land on the far side of the railings," he was reported as saying.

"Buster, standing on his hind legs with his front paws on top of the fence, had to be persuaded to come home. He is … exuberant and over-friendly … I know that is what mothers say about their sons before the court passes sentence."

Richard Heatley, for the prosecution, told the court: "Police were patrolling in St James's Park when officers came across a greylag goose which was very badly injured. In fact it was close to death. Subsequent investigations revealed the injuries were caused by a small brown dog in the charge of Mr Hattersley."

In a statement read by the clerk of the court, Mr Hattersley said that Buster was not intentionally let off the leash, but broke away. "He was naturally most disturbed that his dog had killed a goose and very much regretted that," the clerk said. "He walks in St James's Park most mornings with his dog and has taken particular care to ensure that nothing of this sort happens again."

One of the greylag geese living in St James's Park

After a hearing lasting just over four minutes, Mr Hattersley, MP for Birmingham Sparkbrook, was fined £25 for the first offence and £50 for the second. He was ordered to pay £30 costs.

Mr Hattersley's staff at Westminster denied last night that Buster and his master were inseparable. "I can assure you that he is not with his master tonight. Roy is addressing his constituents in Birmingham and then has a meeting in Warrington," a spokeswoman said.

However, Mr Hattersley has said that, on his retirement from politics at the next election, he intends to spend as much time as he can walking in the Peak District with his pet.

The pair apparently have much in common. After a recent visit to Cruft's, Mr Hattersley said: "Do not believe that owners grow to look like their dogs, or that dogs develop the appearance of their owners. People choose breeds which seem to possess the qualities that they most admire in themselves."

ALEX LENTATI

Mr Hattersley with Buster yesterday. The dog had since been "as good as gold"

Judge increases Reynolds libel damages to 1p

By Michael Horsnell

ALBERT REYNOLDS, the former Irish Prime Minister, had his damages raised from nothing to 1p yesterday by the judge who presided over his five-week libel action. Mr Justice French ruled in the High Court that he was entitled to nominal damages after a jury found on Tuesday that he had been defamed but made no award.

His ruling, for which he said he would give his reasons at a later date, may have a bearing on whether Mr Reynolds should pay the entire costs of the litigation, estimated at more than £1 million.

Unbeknown to the jury, *The Sunday Times* had paid £5,005 into court. Mr Reynolds refused to accept this sum, leaving himself liable to bear the legal costs incurred by both sides after September 20, the date of the payment.

The judge will have to decide whether Mr Reynolds should also pay the newspaper's costs since August 1995, when he issued his writ. After hearing arguments from both sides, the judge said he hoped to rule on the issue today.

The jurors decided that Mr Reynolds's claim that he had been libelled was true in substance. Mr Reynolds, 64, sued after being accused by *The Sunday Times* of lying to the Dail in a report headed "Goodbye gombeen man. Why a fib too far proved fatal".

The newspaper, which pleaded qualified privilege and justification, is seeking payment of all its costs by Mr Reynolds. He accepts liability only for costs incurred after the date of the £5,005 payment.

James Price, QC, for *The Sunday Times*, said the conclusion could not be avoided that the jury found the article to be "so nearly true that ignominious damages would suffice". Lord Williams, QC, for Mr Reynolds, said it was consistent with the "broad justice of the case" that each party should bear its own costs before the date of the paper's payment to court.

Juries regularly award contemptuous damages to reflect their view that the words complained of did not damage a person's reputation.

In 1964, a Dr Dering complained about a book, *Exodus*, suggesting he had performed 17,000 "experiments" without anaesthetics at Auschwitz. Counsel for the book's publishers said that if Dr Dering had no reputation requiring compensation, adequate payment might be the "smallest coin of the realm, not a farthing but a halfpenny." The jury agreed.

Reynolds: ruling may affect liability for costs

In June 1967, William Boaks, a parliamentary candidate in the 1966 general election, was awarded £1 after he complained about a pre-election article saying he was out of work and living on benefit.

In January 1974, Lady Docker sued the *Sunday Express* over an article alleging she was banned from a Jersey hotel for using "naughty words". The jury awarded a halfpenny damages.

In November the same year, Lieutenant-Colonel John Brooks was awarded a halfpenny damages after he sued the *Sunday People* over allegations that he was a "sex trap" for young girls.

William Rees-Mogg, page 1

How political animals give owners a human face

By Bill Frost

NOT since Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat, was accused of killing ducklings and sparrows in the gardens and window boxes of No 10 has a senior politician suffered such embarrassment at the paws of a pet.

Animals are usually a much safer bet than children when posing for photo opportunities. Only Michael Foot's Nepalese mountain dog, Dizzie, was singled out for sneers during the general election campaign of 1983. Mr Foot, who was then Labour leader, was shown in a donkey jacket waving a stick at photographers while walking his pet on Hampstead Heath. The animal bared its teeth.

That was an exception. Paddy, the late Lord Wilson of Rievaulx's labrador, was a natural before the cameras. It chased sticks to order while the Wilsons were on holiday in the Isles of Scilly and seemed to smile at the cameras while its owners picnicked on the beach.

Other political dogs enjoy an even stronger place in British affections. Offa, the eyes of Labour's David Blunkett, would win a spontaneous round of applause whenever it appeared on BBC1's *Question Time*. Lucy, the bitch who replaced Offa, is proving even more popular. Conservative MPs often bring the black labrador-retriever treats at Westminster to enjoy before Prime Minister's Questions.

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, has such affection for Whisky and Soda, his family's pair of Highland terriers, that he has condemned Britain's quarantine rules as absurd. Unless the law is changed, Whisky and Soda will be behind the wire for six months after their owners' return to Britain when Hong Kong is handed back to China next year.

Mr Patten told Sue Lawley on BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* this month that the prospect filled him with dread.

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Richard Branson

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*Source: Savings Market, Summer 1996.

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F L A

Issued by The Finance & Leasing Association

Youth justice system 'fails offenders and victims'

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

THE justice system for young offenders is condemned today as disorganised, inefficient and ineffective. The Audit Commission says that unless action is taken to overhaul it and tackle youth crime and its causes effectively, the country faces a further increase in lawlessness over the next decade.

The commission's report, *Misspent Youth*, says the current system is time-consuming, wastes money and provides little monitoring of the impact of various punishments. "Overall, less is done than a decade ago to address offending by young people. Fewer young people are now convicted by the courts, even allowing for the fall in the number of people aged 10 to 17, and an increasing proportion of those who are found guilty are discharged. At ten of the 12 sites visited, little or no work was done with young offenders outside the court system to address their behaviour."

David Maclean, a Home Office Minister, said the Government was acting to tackle truancy and indiscipline in schools and to stress the importance of parental responsibility. He dismissed a recommendation that local authorities be given an enhanced role in dealing with juvenile offenders. "Punishment must be a matter for the police, the probation service and the courts, not local authorities."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the report was a damning commentary on the failure of the youth justice system and the Government's record. "It supports Labour's view that the system is wasteful, fails victims, communities and young offenders alike."

The commission says that the present arrangements fail young people, who were not being guided away from offending, and their victims, who continued to be plagued by vandalism, arson and theft. The report estimates that 150,000 juvenile offenders are dealt with each year in England and Wales. In 1994, two out of every five known offenders were under the age of 21, and a quarter under 18.

The commission suggests that the under-18s commit about seven million offences a year against retailers, individuals and manufacturers. Only 3 per cent of those offences lead to an arrest and action by the criminal justice system. Youth crime costs public services £1 billion a year, which includes £600 million spent by the police in identifying young offenders and £200 million by social services.

The commission finds that crime tends to be concentrated on a few victims and that criminal behaviour is largely confined to a few areas populated by large numbers of poor, single adult households with poorly supervised youngsters.

Even when young offenders are punished, the report suggests there is a "worrying lack of information" about the effect of different sentences on reoffending. It found that little was done to address offending behaviour and in most areas no attempt was made to monitor reoffending after different sentences had been imposed.

Few sentences were sufficiently intensive to challenge the behaviour of persistent offender in a way likely to prove effective. A study of 103 youngsters given a supervision order found that they were expected to spend an hour a week with a social worker, which was not enough to be effective. The priority for youth justice workers was to form good relationships.

The study was based on 12 visits to different parts of England and Wales; a survey of 600 young offenders sentenced by the courts: and interviews with 100 young criminals on supervision.

☐ *Misspent Youth: Young People and Crime* (Audit Commission: £20)

Inefficiencies cost £2,500 for each juvenile sentenced

By Our Home Correspondent

THE legal system that deals with young offenders is slow, costly and complicated.

Police launch proceedings against two out of every five young people accused of an offence, but prosecutions are not particularly efficient, the Audit Commission report says. The organisations involved in the courts process did not agree on the objectives.

Once a young offender is detained, a police officer must fill in 40 forms which, together with interviews, take between four and five hours to complete. An accused person appears in court an average of four times over an average period of 70 days before being sentenced. The figure in some areas reached as many as 170 days.

The study found that four months passed on average between arrest and sentence, at a cost for each young person of £2,500. "The youth courts process is often complex and lengthy. It takes up much of the time of social workers, lawyers, police officers and others, which is expensive," the report says.

In spite of the time and money spent, the report says that half the proceedings against young people are discontinued, dismissed or end in a discharge.

Four out of five Youth Court cases watched by the commission were adjourned. The reasons included: the young person had not turned up; presentence reports needed to be prepared; the defence lawyer had not been briefed; legal aid not been sorted out.

"It takes up much of the time of youth justice workers, lawyers, and witnesses including police officers. It also means a long delay between a young person's arrest and sentence, which makes any punishment less meaningful," the report says.

It highlights the cost of holding a young person remanded in custody. One case cost a local authority £7,200 to transport a youngster to and from court on 19 occasions, plus £64,000 for secure accommodation for 216 days.

Local authority secure units, providing 24-hour supervised care, cost between £1,800 and £3,450 a week. The latter figure was roughly seven times the cost of keeping a child at Eton and more than twice the cost of staying at The Ritz for a week.

Foster: commission chief urged better use of funds

Three out of five young offenders identified by the police are cautioned rather than prosecuted through the courts. The report admits that although giving a caution works well for first-time offenders, it becomes less effective once a pattern of criminal behaviour has developed.

A critical factor is that few young people who are cautioned receive any further help to cope with their offending or antisocial behaviour. The commission found that, of the cases it observed, 65 per cent of young offenders sentenced in court had been excluded from school or had played truant regularly. It pointed out a dramatic increase in the number of youngsters excluded from school. The number of pupils permanently excluded for disruptive behaviour rose from around 3,000 in 1990-91 to around 11,000 in 1994-95, it says.

Of young offenders on supervision orders interviewed by the commission, 60 per cent were not engaged in work, training or education: 70 per cent took drugs of some kind, cannabis being the most widely used, but Ecstasy, cocaine and heroin also being popular. Half admitted to getting drunk every week.

BERT WIERINGA

A Dutch official supervising young offenders, who must give up free time to make amends for their crimes

Dutch scheme to halt petty crime praised

A DUTCH scheme to tackle juvenile crime allows offenders to avoid prosecution if they recompense victims and repair damage themselves (Stephen Farrell writes).

The Halt project, set up in Rotterdam 15 years ago to deal with vandalism, petty theft and violence by 12 to 18-year-olds, is highlighted by the Audit Commission report as a potentially more effective method of dealing with young offenders. The juvenile must suggest the punishment, such as paying reparations to the victim and giving up Saturdays and holidays to repair damaged property. If no punishment can be agreed, the case goes to prosecutors.

Halt officials claim that 60 per cent either stop or reduce their criminal behaviour, against 25 per cent of those prosecuted. The programme cost £6.1 million in 1995, when it dealt with 17,000 cases. That is expected to rise to £10.2 million next year.

How cash could be redirected to prevention

MINISTERS are urged to redirect cash into measures aimed at identifying children at risk of being sucked into a life of crime (Richard Ford writes). The Audit Commission also calls for local government to be given the role of co-ordinating a national drive to tackle antisocial behaviour and the causes of juvenile crime.

The commission recommends a greater use of "caution-plus" schemes where police formally warn a young offender and other organisations work with the family to tackle offending behaviour. In some schemes the youngster would pay compensation to the victim. The report estimates that if 20 per cent of young offenders prosecuted in court were instead warned and sent to units to deal with offending behaviour, £40 million could be saved and spent preventive measures.

Andrew Foster, controller of the commission, said: "The opportunity exists to redirect money that is inefficiently used into preventive programmes targetted on early offenders. The prize for society is to break the cycle of antisocial behaviour that has become the day-to-day reality for so many young people."

The Government is to respond to growing concern over juvenile crime with a Green Paper next month which will set out ways of identifying and intervening early with children at risk of becoming offenders. It is likely to point to poor parenting, aggressive behaviour at an early age, truancy and school exclusion, unstable home life, poor education, and lack of training and employment.

Today's report calls for more help for parents, including programmes linking new parents with more experienced couples able to offer practical help. Health visitors should have a leading role in spotting the areas and families most at risk.

Local authorities who accommodate children under 18 are urged to consider charging parents who can afford to pay. A source said that the commission had been disturbed by the number of families willing to put children out of the family home because of difficulties in relationships.

The commission highlights a scheme in Northamptonshire to keep young people out of the courts. The Diversion Unit brings together police, teachers, social workers, probation officers, youth workers and a psychiatric nurse to deal with young offenders.

Police refer new cases to the unit and the "punishment" is usually a treatment programme. Youngsters have to confront their crime and behaviour, accept their guilt, offer compensation to the victim, and work with their parents and the unit to ensure that they stay out of trouble.

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Labour produces a line-by-line denial of Tory spending claims

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories tried yesterday to reassert Labour's image of a tax and spend party by presenting a list of 89 spending pledges which they said would cost £30 billion over five years.

Hours later Labour produced its own document, claiming that all 89 pledges were "Tory lies". Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, insisted that the only extra spending commitments were the employment pledges in the party's draft manifesto, costing a net £3 billion to be paid for by the windfall tax.

Mr Brown risked infuriating his own party by denying that there was any commitment to spend money on bringing back British Rail into public ownership and suggesting that the minimum wage would cost nothing.

As the propaganda war intensified the Tories insisted that the 89 commitments had been gleaned from speeches and comments made by Tony Blair and his frontbenchers over the past two years. But Tory party sources admitted that they had made up several of the figures in the document on the basis of a "reasonable" guess at Labour's thinking.

LABOUR'S COMMITMENTS

The few extra spending programmes to which Labour is publicly committed are:

- *Helping people* under 25 and the long-term unemployed into work: **£3 billion**
- Cutting health service waiting lists: **£100 million**
- Reducing class sizes for 5 to 7-year-olds: **£168 million**
- Setting up learn-as-you-earn accounts: ***£150 million***
- Cutting VAT on fuel from 8% to 5%: **£450 million**

The paper, drawn up by William Waldegrave's special adviser, Paul Gardner, includes precise costings on the national minimum wage, which Labour has not set, and spurious costings on social security changes and education measures which are not mentioned in any policy documents.

Some comments made by frontbenchers in 1994/95 have been overtaken by policy changes. But the document draws attention to Labour's reluctance to commit itself to a specific timetable or specific costings on several policies.

The only spending Mr Brown was prepared to condone yesterday was his programme to address youth and long-term unemployment. Labour has also made several specific commitments which involve reallocating existing resources.

The following are some of the Tory claims and Labour's responses.

☐ **Health service:**

The Tories say that phasing out private provision will cost £34 million. Labour says that it has no plans to phase it out.

☐ **The *minimum* wage:**

The Tories say this will cost £3.7 billion a year. They base this on an hourly rate of half median male earnings plus a 50 per cent restoration of differentials.

Labour insists that the plan will cut the social security bill. The wage will be decided by a low pay commission after the general election.

☐ **School sabbaticals:**

The Tories *claim* that giving sabbaticals to teachers with more than ten years service would cost £1.3 billion a year. *They base this on giving* teachers with ten years service four months off, and those with 15 years service, one year off.

Labour says that there is no commitment. The scheme would be phased and offered only to some teachers if the money was available within existing resources.

☐ **Railways:**

The Tories say *that Labour's* commitment to return to a publicly owned and publicly accountable railway will cost the *taxpayer £920 million* a year.

Labour says that the commitment to bring back railways into public ownership depends on economic circumstances and transport priorities. Gordon Brown says there is no commitment to buy back shares.

☐ **Single parents:**

The Tories say that help for single parents will cost £110 million a year.

Labour says that the initial cost will be paid for by a crackdown on fraud and in the long term the plans will pay for themselves through reducing benefit dependency.

☐ **Tree cover:**

The Tories say that Labour will spend £58 million increasing tree cover by 50 per cent.

Labour says that it will set *targets within existing* resources.

☐ **Jobseekers' Allowance:**

The Tories say that Labour's *plans to abolish the* allowance would cost £240 million.

Labour says that it has no plan to abolish it.

Labour says that it will recoup £18 million more than the Tories' programme, with no net cost to the taxpayer.

☐ ***Nursery education:***

The Tories say that Labour willl spend £665 million creating a nursery place for every *three-year-old.*

Labour says that it will provide a nursery place for all four-year-olds using funds *from the Tories' nursery* voucher scheme.

Leading article, page 23

Ludicrous propaganda stunt is a sign of self-delusion

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Labour *is* vulnerable on public spending. Gordon Brown's determination to be an Iron Chancellor and stamp on anything that might be seen as a spending pledge is genuine, yet in aggregate strains credibility.

However, the Tories have *undermined their* case with their ludicrously over-the-top propaganda stunt yesterday with the *Daily Telegraph. The Tories are deluding them*selves if they believe that the successful tax bombshell campaign of 1992 can be repeated now.

The Tory claim that the annual cost of Labour's spending commitments would be an extra £30 billion by the fifth year of a Parliament is a gross exaggeration. I do not know anyone who seriously believes that a Blair government would increase spending by anything like that amount, or raise taxes on the average family by £1,200 a *year.* Admittedly, some of Labour's promises, such as "creating a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway system as economic circumstances and the priorities of transport policy allow", are so ambiguous as to defy meaning. But many of the 89 alleged commitments are non-existent or flimsy. Some are either vague aspirations or would be undertaken only if money could be found from savings elsewhere.

The real doubt about Labour's plans is less melodramatic and was only partially hinted at in yesterday's Tory dossier. It is not that Labour would embark on big new spending programmes. The danger is rather that it would not be rigorous in looking for savings. The Tories have succeeded only in limiting the growth of spending as a result of a series of controversial measures to save money — for example, limiting social security entitlements — which Labour strongly opposed at the time. These savings have offset upward pressures on the core social programmes. Labour has now largely accepted these changes, though in other cases, such as the proposal to end compulsory competitive tendering in local authorities, the drive to reduce costs would be weakened.

Without a continued search for savings in *existing* programmes, a Labour government would find it impossible to prevent a rise in the overall burden of spending and taxes. Labour is on weak ground here. A leaked memo from *Alistair Darling, the Shadow* Chief Secretary, revealed the difficulties he has faced in persuading colleagues to come up with savings. *Only* two areas have so far been publicly identified — shifting money from the Assisted *Places Scheme* and cutting health service administration. But more savings need to be found. The flaw in Labour's rebuttal statement was the woolly references to finding money from within "existing resources".

Yesterday's salvoes between the parties can just be dismissed as a tiresome skirmish in the long winter campaign — though they have forced Labour to clarify their position on many key policies. But the episode also raises questions about the validity of such costing exercises. The latest operation appears to have followed *rules* set out by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, to ensure that civil servants are not dragged into party controversy.

But this may no longer be enough. Writing from his experience as special adviser to Nigel Lawson in the Tories' *first successful* assault on Labour's tax and spending plans in 1987, Andrew Tyrie has urged the creation of a *small, independent fiscal poli*cy committee to monitor the presentation of government borrowing and spending plans. *In his new pamphlet* for the Social Market Foundation, *The Prospects for Public Spending*, Mr Tyrie argues that this committee *should* also look at opposition plans to provide "a better discipline on claims by politicians about the cost and effectiveness of their policies". It might help to provide a more authoritative and impartial framework. But it will not stop the politicians from squabbling about spending and taxes.

PETER RIDDELL

Shadow Treasury team costs Tory plans at £20bn

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR PARTY officials have costed the Tory party's own extra spending *plans* at more than £20 billion.

The shadow Treasury team arrived at the figure by the same route as Conservative Central Office used to cost Labour's plans. Researchers studied the speeches and articles of John Major and *senior* Cabinet ministers to pin down any pledges and aspirations.

The costing programme, which was drawn up Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will be used extensively in the coming months to counter Tory claims of a Labour "tax bombshell".

The Prime Minister's pledge to abolish capital gains tax is estimated at £3 billion. *His* oft repeated wish to scrap inheritance tax would cost £1.5 billion, Labour says. The party estimates that the 5,000 biggest landowning estates in Britain would be £800 million better off.

The widely publicised commitment of Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to create a grammar school in every town is estimated at £2 billion. The pledge by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut the basic rate of income tax to 20p in the pound, which was reiterated yesterday by William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is estimated at £8 billion.

The commitment by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, to raise NHS spending by at least the rate of inflation in every year of the next government, is estimated at £5 *billion*.

The total extra spending comes to £19.5 billion. But Labour says that a range of *other less expensive spending* proposals, such as the introduction of workfare schemes for the long-term unemployed, would add up to a further £2 billion.

Mr Darling said: "We are now counting the Tory claims. We are challenging the Tories to come clean. How will they pay for their election promises. Where is the money to come from."

Tax-saving scheme costs rise

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PLANS to save money on tax collecting have led to huge increases in the cost of a *private sector contract to run* vital Inland Revenue services.

The £1 billion contract to computerise the new self-as*sessment system* has increased by more than £600 million since it was awarded to the US-based computer company Electronic Data Systems in 1994. The 60 per cent increase is to be referred to the National Audit Office, the public *spending* watchdog, which has promised to keep the contract under scrutiny after earlier controversy.

John Hutton, a Labour MP who has pressed for an inquiry, said last night: "Something has gone seriously wrong with this vital contract and costs are running out of control."

The contract provoked controversy when it was awarded by *William* Waldegrave, then Public Service Minister, without an in-house bid from Inland Revenue staff being *allowed. About* 1,900 *staff* were transferred to the private sector.

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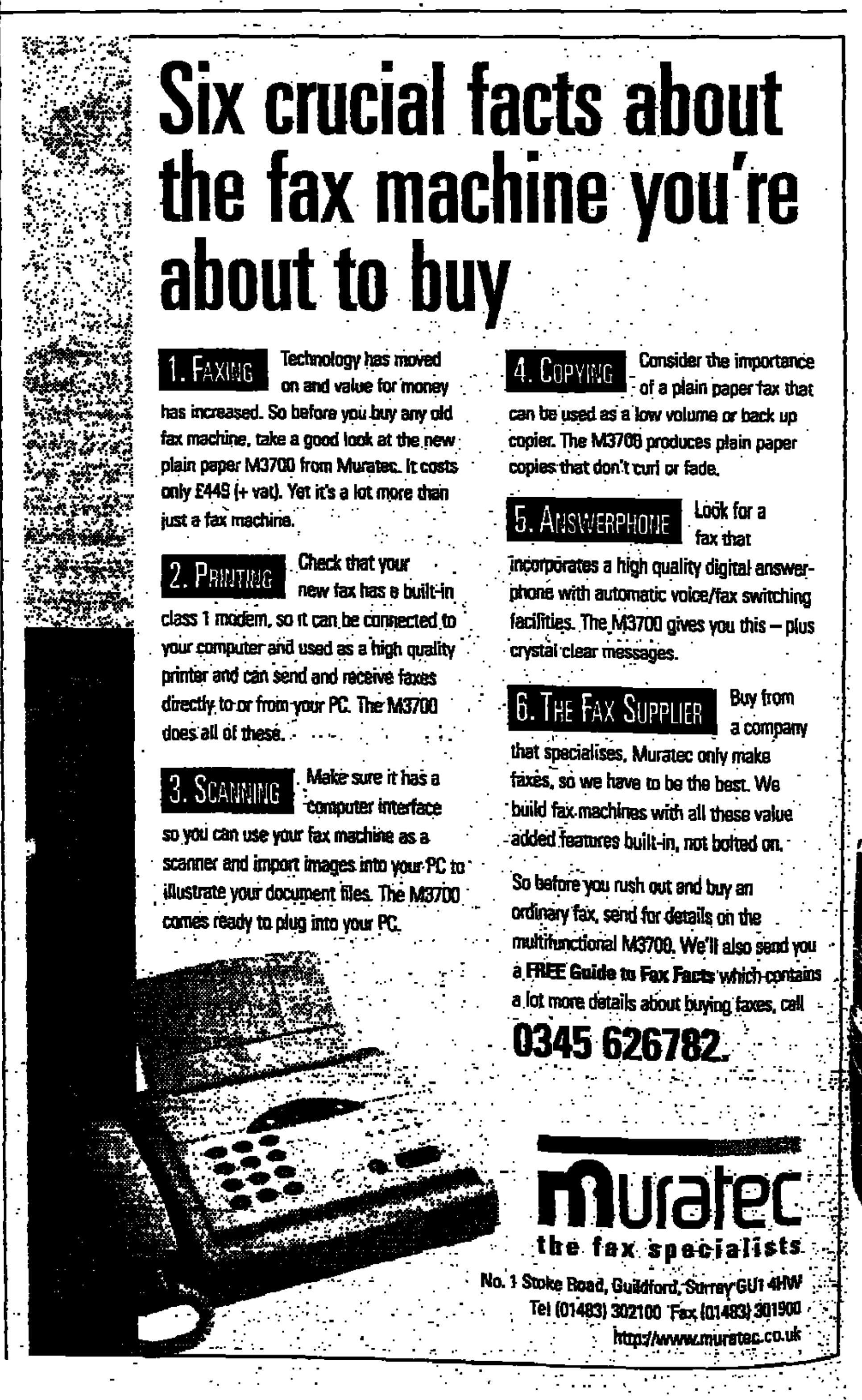

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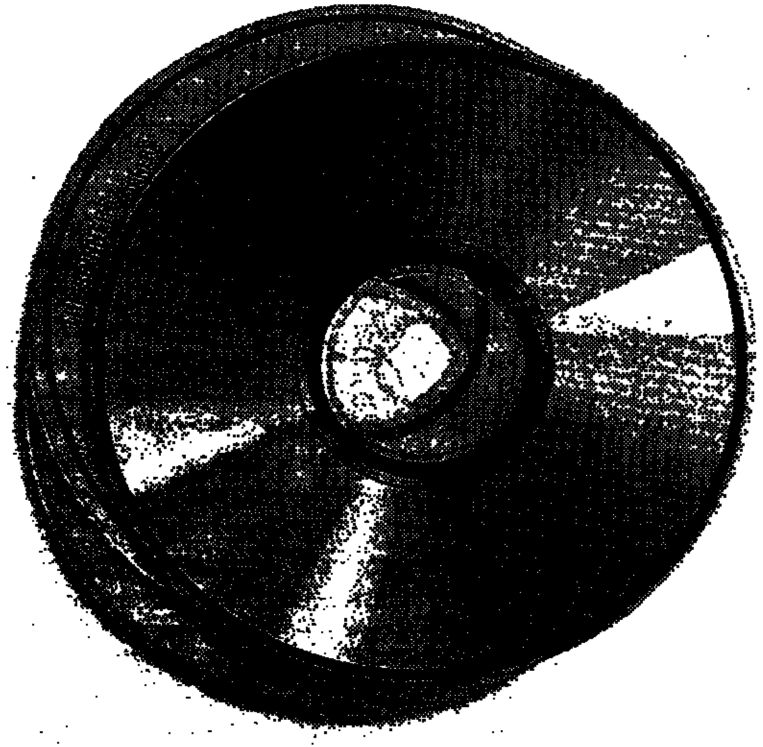
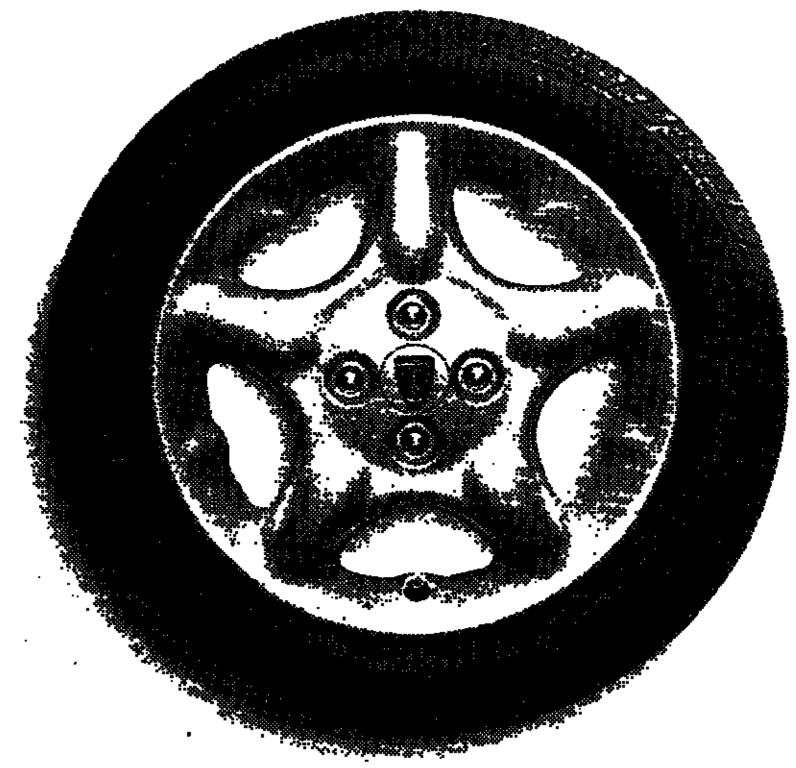
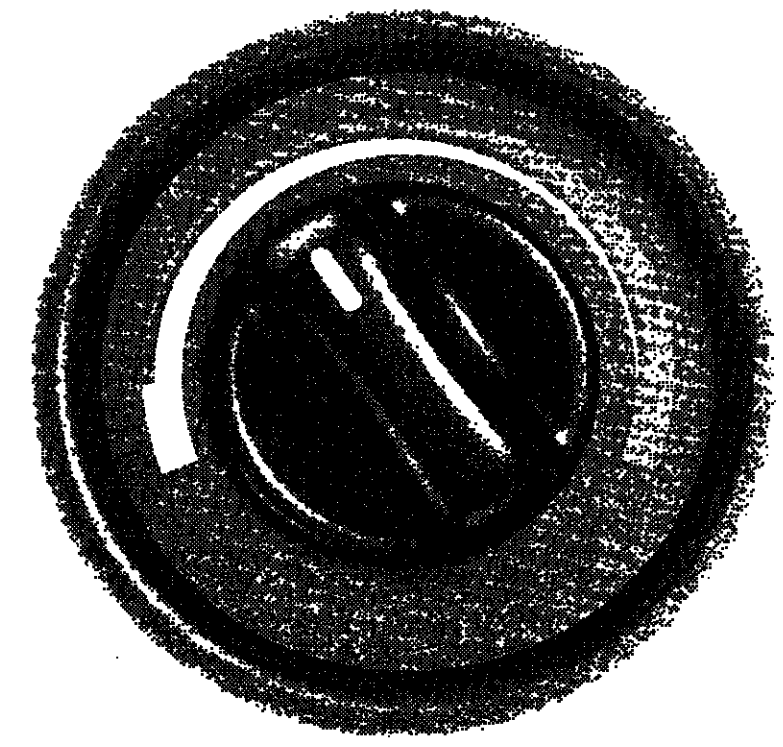

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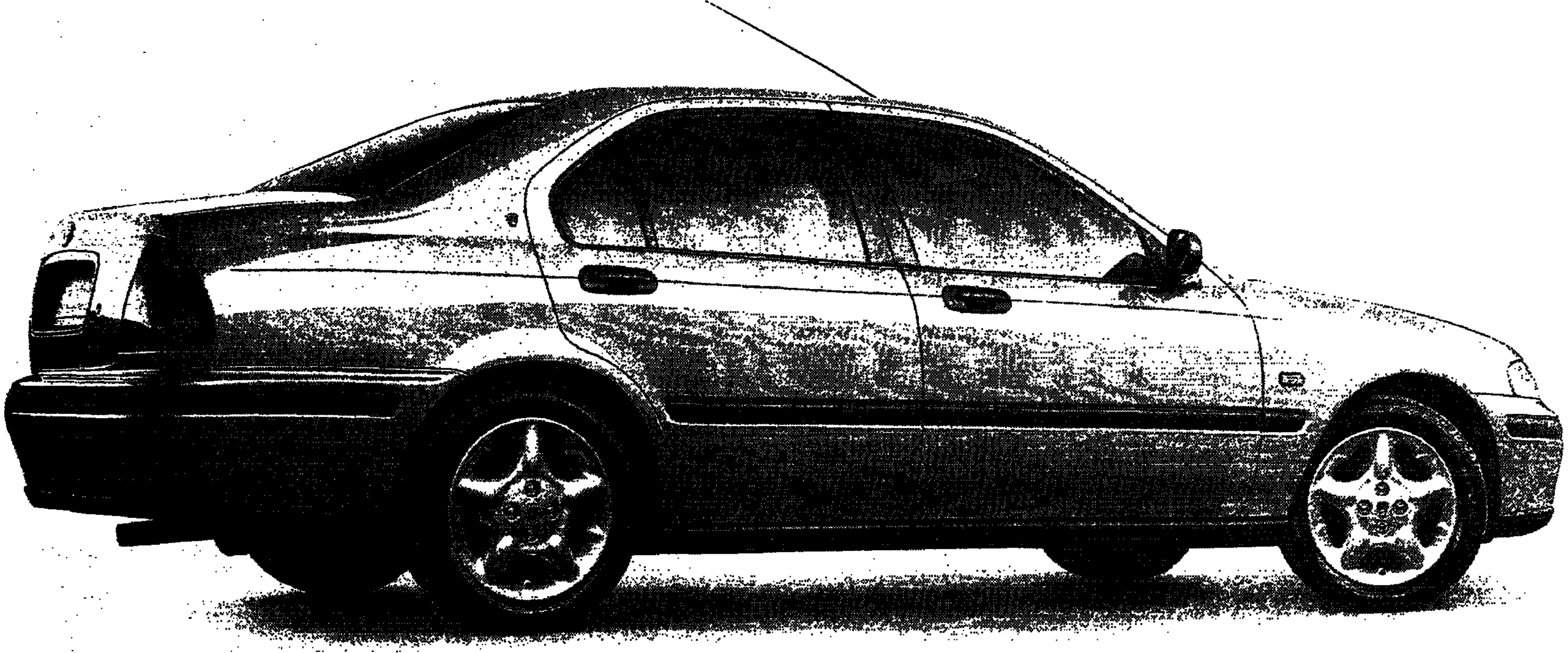

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£500m Library is a monument to folly, MPs tell Bottomley

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE new British Library is a model to the nation — on how not to manage a major building project, MPs said yesterday. They attacked the National Heritage Department for "a dismal story of incompetence and wasted taxpayers' money".

Costs for the library, next to St Pancras station, London, have soared from £450 million to more than £511 million. The Commons Public Accounts Committee said this was made worse because the plans had been scaled down.

The committee called on the department to ensure that there were no more cost increases or delays. It criticised the department for not fixing a budget and for failing to take "swift and decisive" action over technical problems.

The MPs told the Treasury to ensure that other government departments and agencies learnt the lessons of the fiasco. One accounting officer should take control of a project and its budget, reporting to Parliament.

The MPs' progress report on the library is a further criticism of Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, who is under attack over regulation of the National Lottery and failing to secure private sector cash to match lottery money for the Millennium Exhibition.

The committee, chaired by Labour's Robert Sheldon, says: "The library is a major public building and is designed to serve the nation throughout the next century and beyond.

"Its construction should therefore have been planned, managed and executed with the utmost care achieving standards of excellence but without compromising value for money."

The committee had been told in 1990 that the cost would be £450 million but last summer the figure had escalated to £511.1 million. The department would not know the final figure until all accounts had been settled.

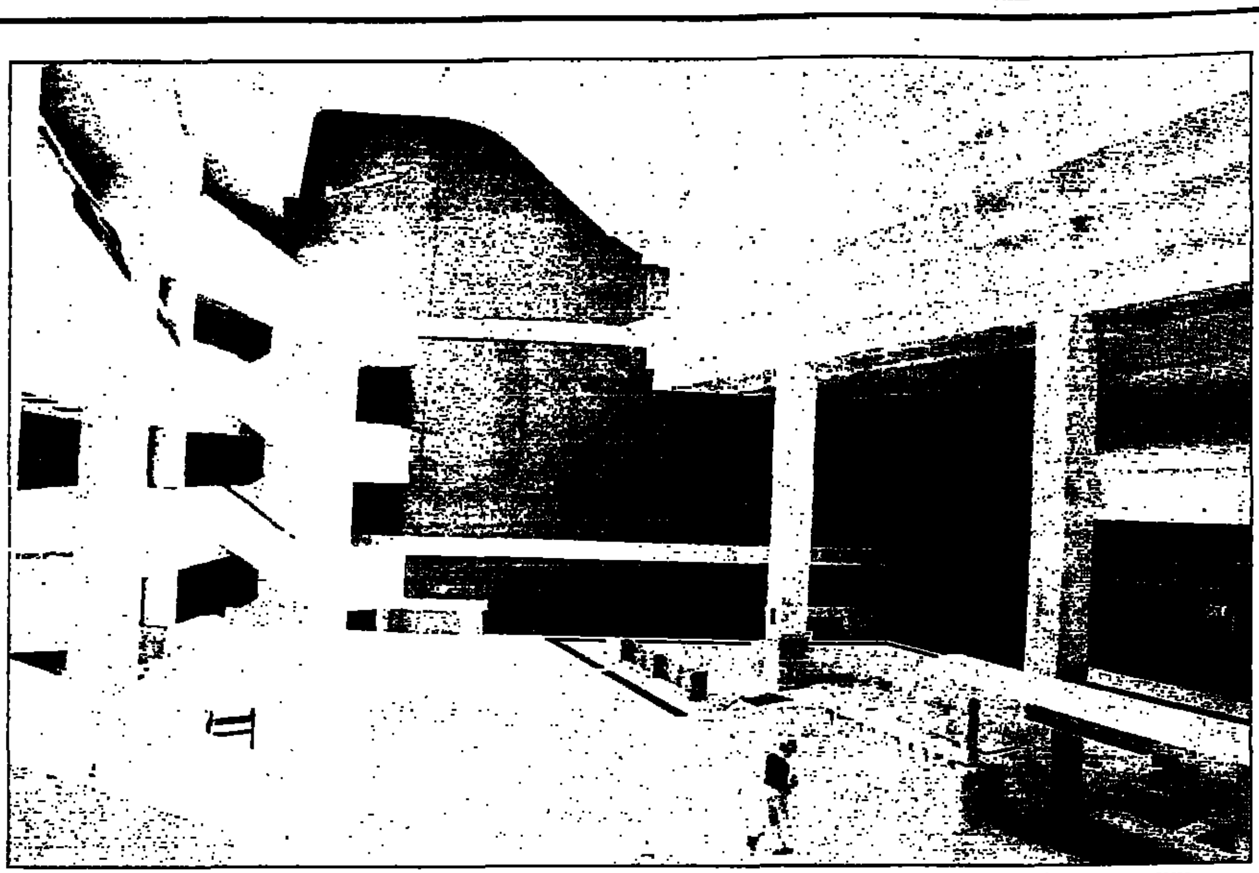
"We consider it unsatisfactory, given the size and duration of this project, that there was no total cash budgets for many years and no firm budgets for the works packages until 1995," the MPs say. "We regard it as extraordinary that the department entered into contracts without setting a budgetary limit for each of them." This left the department vulnerable to claims on its contingency funds, which the MPs were disturbed to find had sometimes gone into overdraft.

They were particularly anxious that the department had not entered into supplementary agreements with key contractors until delays and disruption had cost £92 million. The committee was staggered by the £122 million paid in professional fees, especially as companies had been given no incentive to minimise costs or to keep to a speedy timetable.

The report highlights the role of Laing Management in overseeing the work and the department's view that the firm "did not achieve what they were paid to do". Senior officials considered legal action against the company but were advised by lawyers that they had no grounds. In the end the company was paid £38 million and its contract extended.

MPs blamed earlier differences between the Department and the British Library management for damaging the project and the taxpayer.

A Heritage Department spokesman said yesterday that it was confident the library would be completed on time and within budget. The first books and staff would be moved in within ten days and the department believed the library would offer "fantastic new services" to readers.


The new British Library's cost has risen from a 1990 forecast of £450 million. Delays alone ran up £92 milllion

Call to avoid British Museum charge

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THREE of the art world's most eminent figures yesterday attacked the Government for forcing the British Museum to consider introducing entrance charges to make ends meet.

Sir Hugh Leggatt, Sir Denis Mahon and Sir Robert Sainsbury argued that millions would be unable to afford to visit it. They called on the Treasury to increase its funding and for lottery rules to be changed to cover existing buildings rather than only new ones.

Sir Hugh, a former member of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said: "One of the tragedies is that the Government does not appreciate that it is the very people who are hard up who will most suffer. Foreign visitors will be able to afford to pay."

He described the proposals under consideration by the museum trustees as "philistine and thoroughly uncivilised". Charges are expected to reduce the annual 6.5 million visitors drastically. Sir Denis, a leading scholar, said: "On every occasion the Government tries to get out of its responsibilities." Although the trustees are appointed by the Prime Minister, John Major's office referred the matter to the Heritage office. Sir Hugh said: "If the Prime Minister takes such a lackadaisical attitude, he should give up his prerogative of appointing trustees forthwith. It is ironic that the BM, founded on lottery money, should now fail in granting free admission to the very people who pour in money to the National Lottery."

In a letter to *The Times*, Sir Robert, a former chairman of the Tate Gallery Trustees, writes: "The museum is a great educational resource and surely this role must be maintained and encouraged."

Letters, page 23

BBC seeks fans' help in tracing lost Archers

By Carol Midgley

FANS of *The Archers* are being asked to help to trace vintage episodes. The programmes span 38 years, from Jennifer Aldridge's illegitimate pregnancy to the early days of Sid and Polly Perks's courtship.

Dedicated listeners who may have tape recorded some of the episodes are being urged to come forward to help the BBC to compile *Vintage Archers 3 — The Lost Archers*. At present, the corporation is short of material.

From 1951 to 1989 only episodes considered to be of vital importance were stored in the BBC archives and the rest were thrown away. Although taping broadcasts used to be illegal, the BBC has declared an amnesty. Vanessa Whitburn, the editor, said: "Listeners with a home library of *The Archers* need not fear."

Storylines featuring the early days of the Grundys, Nigel Pargetter's affair with Shula Archer, or the death of Jethro Larkin are among those being sought by the BBC.

A spokesman said: "Rumour has it that there are people who are such enthusiasts that they have 20 or 38 years' worth of episodes sitting in their lofts. We would love to hear from them."

Anyone who can help should contact The Archers Archive Appeal, BBC Pebble Mill, Birmingham, B5 7QQ.

Channel 4 sell-off could raise up to £3bn

By Carol Midgley

THE privatisation of Channel 4 could raise £2 billion without the station losing its distinctive programming remit, a new study says.

The independent European Media Forum, whose director, Damian Green, was a media adviser in John Major's policy unit, says research shows that selling the channel would be financially viable and would reduce state ownership of the media. Channel 4's future is expected to be decided next week during the Budget debate.

Mr Green said the study's figures had been shown to officials in Whitehall "for the past month or so". If Channel 4 lost its remit to provide minority programmes, its sale could raise up to £3 billion, the report says. The programme mix had changed radically with an "absolute" decline in multicultural programmes and documentaries.

"Channel 4's commercial success has established beyond doubt that profits and a distinctive programming remit can walk hand in hand," the study says. Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, has promised to fight a sale. He believes privatisation would ruin the remit that has made the channel a success.

Mr Green said: "Next week's Budget should decide the future of Channel 4 once and for all, as it is in no one's interest to leave the channel uncertain whether its future lies in the public or private sectors."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-football star fined over cocaine

Frank McAvennie, 36, a former Scotland international footballer, was yesterday fined £750 by Paisley Sheriff Court for possessing cocaine. He and Peter McClellan, 26, from Milton, Glasgow, were found to have the drug when stopped at Glasgow Airport soon after arriving on a London flight on April 19. McClellan was also fined £750.

Judgment later

Judgment in the case of the former footballer Brian McCord, 28, who is suing John Cornforth and Swansea City Football Club for injuries from a tackle in 1993, was reserved in the High Court.

Royal visitor

Diana, Princess of Wales paid a 30-minute visit to her friend Jemima Khan and her newborn baby at Portland Hospital, London. The boy, who has been named Sulaiman Isa, was born on Sunday.

Launch felled

Bad weather has impeded National Tree Week whose organisers aim to plant more than a million trees. Snow forced the postponement of the planting of 20,000 trees in the West Midlands.

Bird 999 call

A Durham ambulance crew revived a tawny owl with oxygen after it hit their windscreen and was knocked unconscious. The bird was kept under observation and set free the next day.

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صكتا من الاجل

Hutus trek north to Goma as Zaire rebels begin push

By Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent

EASTERN ZAIRE descended further into chaos yesterday as a United Nations agency said 100,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees were moving north from Bukavu to Goma, while rebels continued their advance towards Kisangani.

Michelle Quintaglie, of the UN World Food Programme, said that there were "strong indications of a large movement of people from the Bukavu area heading north towards Goma. We believe there could be 100,000".

The northward trek of the refugees would add an extra 70 miles to their journey home. A shorter route for them would have been to head eastwards and cross into Rwanda at Cyangugu, a stone's throw from Bukavu.

Michelle Quintaglie said the decision to head north was "a mystery". The answer may be that the Hutus are not heading for Rwanda via Goma but for Masisi, deeper into Zaire, where another 100,000 are thought to have fled when their camp at Mugunga was cleared by eastern Zaire's Tutsi Banyamulenge rebels last week.

Extremist Hutu leaders, who maintain an iron grip on their kinsmen with a mixture of propaganda and terror, had prepared the ground for establishing a Hutu homeland in Masisi earlier this year when they killed thousands of Zairean Tutsis living there.

The refugees' trek north may depend on the mercy of eastern Zaire's rebels whose objective is to annihilate the Hutu militia, the *Interahamwe*, and depose President Mobutu of Zaire. The Hutu refugees will need protection because their route along the western edge of Lake Kivu is controlled by the Mai Mai, a mystical militia which, although in alliance with the Banyamulenge, has a record of slaughtering Rwandans, whether Hutu or Tutsi.

Aid officials are concerned that another 500,000 refugees remain missing in South Kivu province and relief agencies are being denied access to Bukavu by the rebels.

Laurent Kabilla, the leader of the rebels, who is viewed as a front-man for the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Government, has insisted that his aim is to depose President Mobutu. He said the Hutu refugees and the *Interahamwe* in their midst were "merely a block to our advance".

But the success of his advance will depend on whether Rwanda and his allies in Uganda decide to continue to support his uprising. It is not clear whether the Banyamulenge's military ambitions *in Zaire extend beyond destroying* militias that have threatened their security.

International enthusiasm for a military intervention in eastern Zaire has waned since the rebels cleared Mugunga camp, near Goma, with few casualties. The rout of the *Interahamwe* there drove 700,000 Hutu refugees back to Rwanda last week. With the emergence of ever more complex rebel groups in eastern Zaire and little information about how, if at all, foreign soldiers would be able to help the refugees, the prospect of a military intervention looked increasingly dim yesterday.

The Banyamulenge fear that a humanitarian intervention would slow their advance and allow the refugees to re-establish permanent camps.

Some aid groups support their stance. Mike McDonagh, director of Concern International, said: "So long as there are no indications of widespread hunger or disease, the rebels should be left to get on with clearing out the camps in their own way. They would be doing both us and the refugees a favour."

JEROME DELAY/AP

Hutu children, separated from their families during the exodus from Zaire, wait at a transit station in Gisenyi, near the Rwanda border

RAF camera team prepares to hunt for refugees

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

AN RAF Canberra supported by three Hercules aircraft, packed with photo reconnaissance experts and photographic analysts, is expected to begin operating over Zaire today in the hunt for hundreds of thousands of missing refugees.

The Canberra PR9 reconnaissance aircraft arrived in Akrotiri, Cyprus, yesterday after taking off from RAF Marham in Norfolk. The 50-man team sent with the Canberra and three Hercules were waiting last night for diplomatic clearance from the Zairean Government.

The Hercules aircraft, which are equipped with mobile photographic "cabins", have been sent with the Canberra to ensure that the "wet films" taken by one of the RAF's oldest jets can be developed, enhanced and analysed "in theatre".

The RAF team, which is expected to stay in the region for more than a week, will relay their findings back to the Ministry of Defence before returning to Britain.

With indications yesterday that up to 100,000 refugees were on the move from the Bukavu area of Zaire, the Canberra will be in a unique position to photograph the exodus and to make calculations of the numbers still remaining in the wooded hills southwest of Lake Kivu. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, in Moscow, and Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, in the Commons, both made it clear that Britain intended to wait for the refugee picture to be clear before deciding whether to send British troops into the area.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that several countries which had wanted to take part in a military mission to eastern Zaire were now having second thoughts.

The date for a meeting of military leaders from nations who had offered troops was also put back. They are now due to meet tomorrow in Stuttgart. Canada said yesterday that plans for an international rescue mission were now on hold until that meeting. Lieutenant-General Maurice Baril, the Canadian officer earmarked to command the multinational force, was said to be reassessing any changes of the mission being discussed by the United Nations and conducting further preliminary planning.

Vice-President Paul Kagame of Rwanda repeated his Government's opposition to an international force in Central Africa.

The British Overseas Development Administration announced a further £10 million for Rwanda and the Great Lakes region, bringing the total British financial aid to Rwanda and its refugees to more than £18 million this year.

Portillo proposes charter with Russia

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that Nato and Russia would probably sign a charter next year to define their new post-Cold War relationship.

During his first visit to Moscow, Mr Portillo saw at first hand the anger almost all the Russian political establishment feels at the prospect of the expansion of Nato, its former enemy, into Eastern Europe. He was given a cool reception when he gave a speech to the massed ranks of generals of the General Staff Academy. The Russian military are not used to the idea of a civilian defence minister.

While Mr Portillo stuck to the view that Nato should expand, he also conceded that Russia should be bound more firmly into future Russian security arrangements by the signing of a formal document.

"I sense that all the people I have spoken to today are anxious to embark on a new understanding between Russia and Nato," Mr Portillo said. "This will probably result in the signing of some sort of charter because there are practical things on which we need to work together."

The aim will be to avert clashes over thorny issues, such as the revising of the outdated Conventional Forces in Europe agreement, which dates back to 1990. Mr Portillo pre-empted another such question when he reassured the Russians that there was little chance of nuclear weapons being stationed in new Nato member countries, such as Poland and the Czech Republic.

Although he did not put a date on the signing of the new charter, Mr Portillo said the decision on the admission of new members to Nato would take place at a summit to be held no later than next July.

He added that Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, had given him a draft agreement on future military co-operation between Britain and Russia which he would take away for further consideration.

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Urgent: children's exodus from Zaire

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Aid agency Children's Aid Direct are waiting to receive hundreds of children who have been separated from their parents. Executive Director David Grubb says: "This is just the beginning. As children continue to arrive, our priority is to keep them alive and then re-unite them with their families."

For two years, Children's Aid Direct have been helping families in Rwanda to return to normal community life. They need your support today to help keep these refugees alive and provide them with the seeds, tools and health care they need to rebuild their lives.

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Photograph Kirsty Barlow

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Clinton gambles on Far Eastern trade taming the tyranny of Peking

In a warning to Europe, President Clinton is signalling that America must look East as much as West. **Bronwen Maddox** writes

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S *tour* of Asia, just weeks after his re-election, is a *reminder of the* prominence he wants to give the region in his second term.

However, in courting Asian countries, particularly China, he *has been attacked for putting* short-term trading interests ahead of long-standing principles of foreign policy. The biggest row awaiting Mr Clinton back in *Washington — the allegation that* his campaign illegally accepted Asian funds — is an appropriate symbol of the risks he faces in taking money from new-found friends.

Mr Clinton is personally fascinated with Asia. As Governor of *Arkansas in 1985, keen for his* home state to shake off its hillbilly image, he tried to attract Asian investment by opening state offices in Tokyo and Taipei. In 1994, *after Republicans* seized control of Congress, Mr Clinton turned to Asian-Americans as a new source of votes and campaign funds. On the campaign trail this year, he used Asian communities' reputation for hard work, family values and reverence for education to *illustrate his favourite metaphor* of a "bridge to the 21st century".

In contrast, Mr Clinton often seems to see in Europe an uncomfortable reminder of America's least tractable problems: long-term unemployment, ageing populations and budget deficits.

In a warning to Europe of where America's special relationships are likely to lie in the next century, Mr Clinton said yesterday: "America must look to the East as much as to the West."

From America's point of view, the Apec *summit* of Pacific Rim trading partners, now assembling in the Philippines, is dominated by Mr Clinton's private meeting on Saturday with his Chinese *counterpart, Jiang Zemin. In the* past year, Mr Clinton has thrown himself fully behind the argument that economic ties with the West will tame China. He now wants to glue together a relationship that seemed in serious danger of fracture.

Two years ago, the United States formally abandoned its attempt to use trade as a lever to promote Chinese respect for human rights. Even so, the relationship seemed set on a rapid downward spiral, after *allegations that the Chinese sold nuclear* technology to Pakistan, China's military manoeuvres in the Taiwan Straits ahead of the Nationalist island's elections, and China's *unrestrained pirating of Ameri*can software, music, videos and CDs. This week, however, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said he would raise the subject of human rights on Saturday but that "no single issue" should dominate the talks. The message was clear: the Clinton Administration would now pursue a pragmatic path towards common ground. The main reason for the change is the Administration's determination to make a dent in China's trade surplus with the US, which reached $35 billion in 1995. The influx of goods is visible throughout American shopping malls, where a vast range of household equipment bears the label "Made in Shanghai".

But the new approach has risks. For businesses, the danger is that the legal framework of ownership remains flimsy and the problem of piracy stays unresolved. American industry officials put the annual cost to US businesses at between $2 billion and $3 billion.

For President Clinton, the political risk of playing down the human rights issues is also considerable. One European diplomat suggests privately that the Administration believes the questions *do not currently have much* resonance in America: "Whatever horrible things go on in China, unlike Rwanda or Zaire, they are not on Cable News Network every night." *But a potentially powerful* alliance of liberals and conservatives in Congress is vigorously opposed to Mr Clinton's new warmth towards Peking.

Mr *Clinton's gamble is that* trade will undermine tyranny, and that by the time the Peking leadership changes, the commercial ties between the two countries will be *so extensive* that China remains tamed.

President warns China against 'bullying'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

AT THE start of his two-week tour of Asia and Australia, President Clinton yesterday warned China against international bullying and pledged that the Americans were in the Pacific to stay.

In his first foreign policy speech since his re-election, President Clinton cautioned the Chinese against expansionism while assuring them Washington had no policy of anti-China containment.

Peking has repeatedly alleged that the US, Australia, and Japan are conspiring to encircle China. But Mr Clinton said: "The United States has no interest in containing China."

*Mr Clinton asked the Aus*tralian parliament in Canberra: "How will the Chinese define their greatness in the 21st century? In terms of the incredible potential of their people to learn, to produce, to succeed — or to dominate their neighbours and others against their will?"

Mr Clinton's warning to China came as Warren Christopher, his Secretary of State, went into talks with President Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, *in Peking. Mr Qian told Mr* Christopher that "the question of Taiwan is the core issue of Sino-American relations. If mishandled then our bilateral relationship will be subject to disruptions." He specified that China would feel the relationship was satisfactory when Washington ceased arms sales to Taiwan.

The Foreign Minister said that China did not engage in nuclear proliferation or the sale of missiles, although Mr Christopher had said before his talks began that he would urge Peking to end its nuclear co-operation with Iran. William Triplett, an authority on Washington weapons sales, *said last night: "The Chinese* are secretly building a complete factory in Pakistan for the manufacture of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles."

In Peking Mr Christopher, who has said he wants to resign before the beginning of Mr Clinton's second term, was wholly reassuring. He made it plain when he arrived on Tuesday that the recent imprisonment of Wang Dan, the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy leader, for 11 years would not impede his meetings with President Jiang and Mr Li. "I expect I'll be discussing human rights and the rule of law issues at all my meetings," Mr Christopher said. "I'd emphasise the importance of the overall relationship, the fact that we have to have a steady and comprehensive approach to the relationship, *that's not rooted in a single* issue."

On the plane bound for Peking, Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said that Mr Christopher wanted to "leave his successor a relationship that's balanced and moving forward".

The result of the new policy has been the smashing of virtually the entire Chinese dissident movement, and little American action when Peking was identified by American intelligence agencies, this year alone, as selling strategic missiles, nuclear technology and a missile factory to Pakistan, a poison-gas factory to Iran and missile parts to Syria.

However, although the problems of arms sales and intellectual property remain, as does Washington's commitment to Taiwan, to which *Americans sent two aircraft* carriers last spring when the island was menaced by Chinese missiles and invasion manoeuvres, Al Gore, the Vice-President, may visit Peking before the end of this year.

State Department sources say that after the Clinton-Jiang meeting on November 24 at the Manila summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Forum, the American President may announce an exchange of presidential visits early next year.

Hillary Clinton gets a guided tour of Aboriginal artwork at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra from director Betty Churcher

US leader's toast to the Queen angers Australian republicans

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

PRESIDENT Clinton found himself embroiled in Australia's republican debate yesterday after toasting the Queen at an official lunch in Canberra.

John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, made a toast to the health of Mr Clinton and the President proposed a toast to "Her Majesty, the Queen of Australia".

Last night the founder of the Australian Republican Movement, Malcolm Turnbull, claimed the toast made Australia "just a little bit less of a nation". He said the President's toast underlined the falsity of monarchists who said the head of state was the Governor-General.

"He doesn't toast the Governor-General, he toasts the Queen — the truth is he should be toasting an Australian President," Mr Turnbull said.

"There you have John Howard proposing the toast to the head of state of America, who's an American citizen, chosen by Americans, then Clinton stands up and proposes a toast to a woman he knows very well, but whom he knows as *the Queen of England*," he said.

"You have to wonder whether, in the eyes of Bill Clinton, Australia wasn't being seen at that moment as just a little bit less of a nation."

Later President Clinton backed Australia in a renewed free trade push in the Asia-Pacific region. Today he will fly to the Queensland resort of Port Douglas, where the President will take a two-day break with his wife, Hillary.

Baywatch beauty sues for divorce

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

PAMELA ANDERSON, who played the shapely lifeguard CJ Parker in the popular television series, *Baywatch*, is suing for divorce.

Anderson dismayed her parents and fans by marrying Tommy Lee, a rock drummer, after a four-day courtship on a Mexican beach last year. Twenty-one months later, she has filed for divorce and custody of their five-month-old son, saying the pair have "irreconcilable differences".

The sudden split has surprised *Baywatch* fans. Despite rumours of drug-taking and frequent rows, the couple have been inseparable since their marriage. Mr Lee, famous for his extensive tattoos and for dropping his trousers on stage *with his group*, Motley Crue, often joined his wife on *Baywatch* locations.

The cause of the split is unknown, but sources of stress in the relationship include a lawsuit filed against Lee last month by a photographer whose pelvis was broken when the drummer threw him to the ground while being filmed leaving a Sunset Strip club in Hollywood.

Ms Anderson and Mr Lee are also locked in a legal battle with Bob Guccione, the publisher of *Penthouse*, who plans to publish photographs he has obtained of them having sex in a car and on a boat.

Body and Mind, page 20

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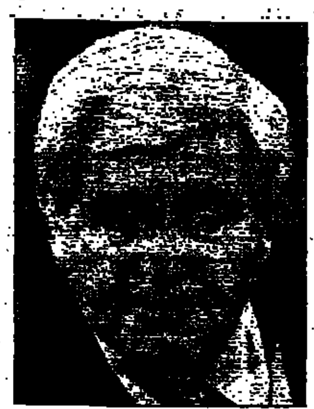
Republicans put faith in repackaged Gingrich

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON


Gingrich: new image as bipartisan politician

A MORE GENTLE and conciliatory Newt Gingrich yesterday gained unanimous support for his re-election as America's first two-term House Speaker since the 1920s *from* a Republican Party which views the once firebrand Georgia congressman as one of its best leaders for the new millennium.

Accepting the nomination after a closed party caucus on Capitol Hill, Mr Gingrich described the approval as bittersweet. His stepfather, Robert Gingrich, had died the previous night after a battle with cancer.

In many ways his comments also reflected Mr Gingrich's own position in Congress, where some Republicans still view his unpopularity among the electorate as a liability for the next midterm elections in 1998.

Now repackaged as a bipartisan politician eager to do business with the White House, however, he has managed to fend off attempts by a *group of former loyalists* to make him stand down in the face of ethics charges. He is still seen as the architect of a revolution which forced President *Clinton's steady march to* the right and resulted in the White House adoption of a conservative agenda ranging from tax cuts to welfare.

The conservative theorist and author of the *Contract with America*, who two years ago swept the Republicans to overall victory in Congress for the first time in 40 years, is now portrayed as a lukewarm *shadow of his former self*.

Once depicted by *Time* magazine as a Dickensian figure swiping Tiny Tim's crutch, the Gingrich stereotype has undergone a progressive facelift since the Republican convention in August. Shown as a caring animal lover and family man, *his smiling face has* been broadcast nightly on the nation's television screens beneath a picture of the US Capitol bearing the slogan, "Under New Management".

"He needs to be patient, less strident and focus on his vision for America and his strategy for doing it, and I think he's doing that," said Chris Shays, the moderate Connecticut Republican who *had considered breaking* ranks with Mr Gingrich. "I'd like people to know Newt as I know him, as a true visionary, a dedicated and patriotic public servant."

Analysts believe the downward spiral in popularity for Mr Gingrich, which left him vilified in the polls by Democrats and continues to affect his standing among the electorate, began during the government shutdown last year.

Described as a "cry baby" for complaining that President Clinton had snubbed him on board Air Force One while flying to the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Gingrich was never able to recover his previous stature.

The Speaker's office was flooded with complaints that his comments had trivialised the overall Republican message during the critical budget talks with the White House and given Mr Clinton an easy target for his campaign.

The Republican House caucus, which also re-elected Dick Armey as majority leader and *Tom DeLay as majority whip* yesterday, is expected to devolve more power from the Speaker to committee chairmen in an interim effort to keep Mr Gingrich out of the spotlight. The only question that remains is whether, as some suspect, he may return with a vengeance to run for the presidency in 2000.

MICHAEL MACOR/AP

Marshall Wais recounts his kidnap ordeal outside his San Francisco home

Magnate freed for $500,000 ransom

San Francisco: Blindfolded, handcuffed and held at gunpoint in a van for nearly eight hours, Marshall Wais, a steel magnate, got a goodwill gesture from his kidnappers as they set him free. The abductors, who had just collected a $500,000 (£300,000) ransom, gave him $20 for a cab fare home.

Moments after he walked free, police rammed the getaway van and arrested two men, ending a day-long ordeal on Tuesday for the 79-year-old businessman, a San Francisco philanthropist.

Mr Wais said his kidnappers did not mince words as *they drove around San Francisco*, stopping to call from pay phones. "They said if there were any police around, *that would be the end of me*."

The drama began when two men barged into his $3 million home as his maid opened the door to take out the rubbish. They tied her up and ordered him out of bed. But his stepson managed to sneak out and alert police. The *suspects* were unaware that police were on to them. *(AP)*

King family sues CBS over video of 'dream' speech

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

King: his "dream" is copyrighted

THE widow and family of Martin Luther King are suing an American television news station for using extracts of the US civil rights leader's most celebrated speech.

CBS News is selling a boxed videotape set of history programmes which carries long bursts of King's 1963 "I have a dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. Three weeks after making the speech, King registered his copyright to the words. Ownership of that speech and others which King *made during his political* career have helped to keep his family in financial security since his death.

The television company is expected to argue that its use of the extracts, which comprise 25 per cent of the videotape, was justified on grounds of public interest and because the film was shot by CBS news cameras which were covering the event in 1963. A *CBS executive*, Andrew Heyward, claimed that the use of the historic footage was protected under the US First Amendment — which guarantees freedom of speech — and by its own copyright on the film.

When he registered his *ownership*, *King* listed not only his draft of the speech but also a later, edited version and an audiotape which recorded the distinctive, mournful cadences of his oratory. His delivery turned "I have a dream" into arguably the best-known phrase in America. The family, led by Mrs Coretta King, has engaged a prominent Atlanta lawyer, Joe Beck, to represent them. A *friend of the family said* they were "determined to protect their inheritance".

In 1964 King won the Nobel peace prize for his efforts to improve the lot of America's blacks. He was assassinated in 1968 by a white man in Memphis, Tennessee.

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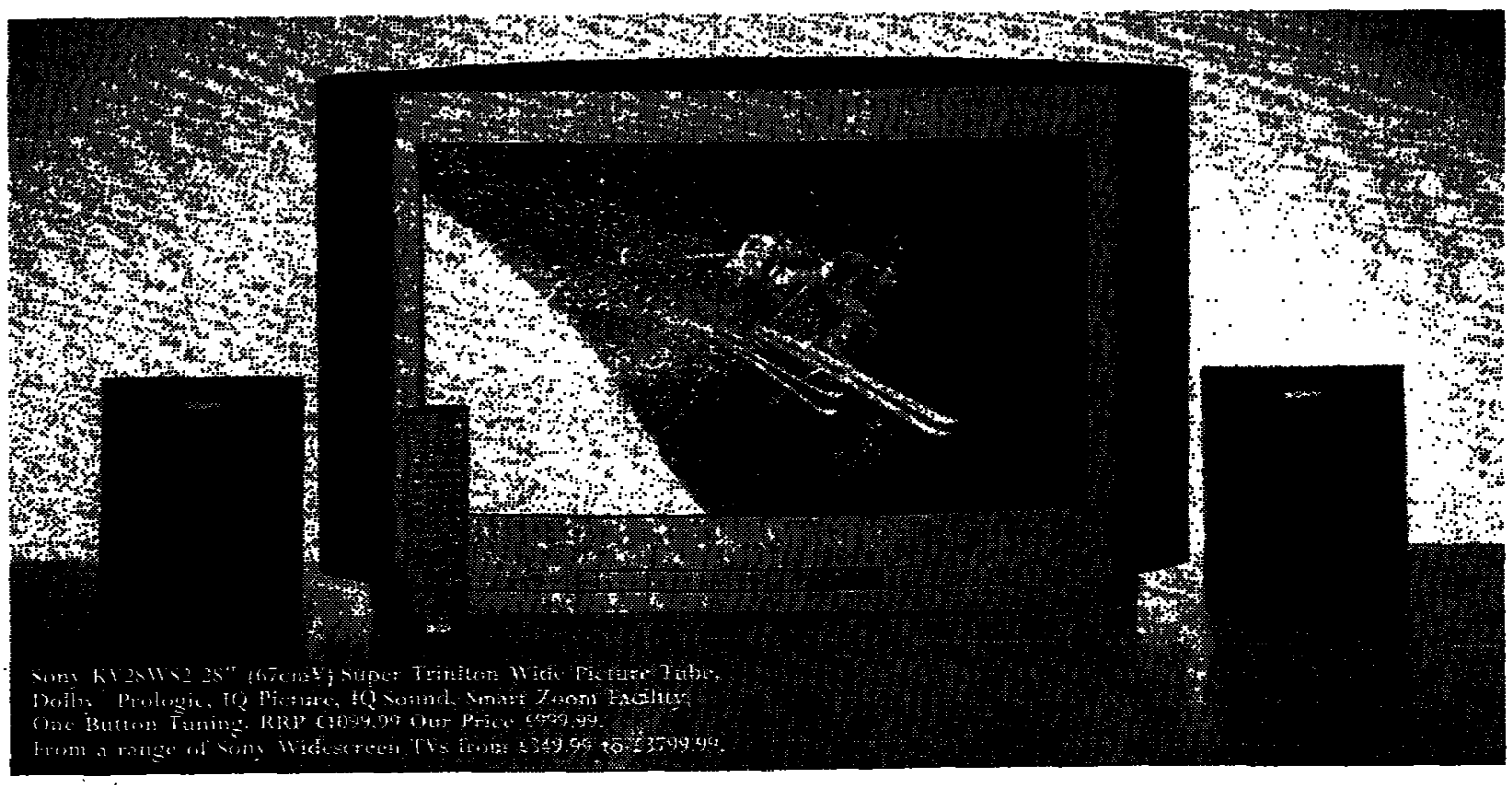

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Tasmania killer is 'simple but not criminally insane'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

WHAT prompted mass murderer Martin Bryant to kill 35 people in last April's Port Arthur massacre will almost certainly remain a mystery.

After two days of evidence Tasmania's Supreme Court was told yesterday that the 29-year-old gunman was not criminally insane, but simple. He had a mental age of ten and possibly suffered from a rare personality disorder known as Asperger's syndrome, which affects about 0.3 per cent of the population.

But he was not mad and, according to John Avery, his lawyer, he was merely a person of "very limited intellectual capacity". The defence barrister said he had nothing to say in Bryant's mitigation, other than to point out he had an IQ of 66. Ninety per cent of 11-year-olds would score better than Bryant, he said.

Mr Avery said that Bryant accepted that he should spend the rest of his life in jail. "Martin Bryant accepts that in all probability he will never be released from prison and will die there and he also accepts that that would be a not inappropriate sentence," he told the court.

Earlier, the court was shown a videotape of a police interview with Bryant recorded soon after last April's massacre.

In it he laughed and rambled his way through 90 minutes of questioning by detectives.

"I shouldn't be here," he told officers in his prison cell. "I wish I had my AR15 gun, then I could get out of here," he added.

The court heard that the defendant had told a psychiatrist that guns gave him power. "I could just go bang, bang, bang," he said.

Bryant's high-pitched voice occasionally burst into a snigger on the tape as he strayed from the subject to talk about surfing and his father.

"Do you remember what happened on the day of the killings?", he was asked.

"No, no, I don't," he replied.

Asked about the semi-automatic weapon he used to kill most of his victims, Bryant described it as a "sweet little gun". He had paid £2,500 for it and had not been asked to show a firearm licence, which he did not possess anyway.

Bryant told police he regularly went shooting in the Port Arthur area, often using tin cans or home-made targets. However, he refused to use bottles, for fear the broken glass might hurt animals.

"It just made me feel good, letting a few rounds off," he explained.

The second day of Bryant's sentencing hearing in Hobart also heard about the deaths of three people he had taken hostage at the Seascape guest house, near the former penal colony. One of his victims was handcuffed and another gagged before being shot dead.

A third person who was forced at gunpoint into the back of a stolen BMW after Bryant's shooting rampage was also later found in the burnt-out guest house shot dead and with his wrists handcuffed behind his back. All three bodies were burnt beyond recognition, the court heard.

The court was told that Bryant was incapable of showing remorse and revelled in the notoriety achieved by the massacre.

"It was just in my mind to go down and kill a lot of people," he said.

The judge will sentence Bryant tomorrow.

Rare mental condition can bring on dangerous rages

MEDICAL BRIEFING

IF THE Tasmanian mass murderer, Martin Bryant, is sane, as has been claimed in court, that means he was aware when he committed his murders that his actions were unlawful.

It has been suggested in his defence that he could be suffering from Asperger's syndrome. This is a strange and rare condition which some authorities think is associated with autism and, as with autism, there is often evidence that there may have been minimal brain damage at, or before, birth.

Someone with Asperger's syndrome may have limited but obsessive interests. He may, for instance, know all there is to be known about orchids or medieval armour, but take little notice of anything else, and may have a low IQ. People with Asperger's are emotionally very detached, and their ability to form normal social relationships is severely reduced. Their behaviour is often bizarre.

The standard stage portrayal of the mad professor who is unable to manage everyday life, is obsessed by the trivia of his chosen subject, and is detached, anti-social and eccentric, is an example of Asperger's in one of its milder manifestations.

People with Asperger syndrome, like those with autism, have a consuming desire to make certain that there is no change in the established routine. A year or two ago, I saw a young patient with Asperger's who was reduced to uncontrollable and dangerous rages if the family dinner table had been set in any way different from its usual pattern, or if any of his siblings or even parents were fractionally late for a meal.

The forensic psychiatrists will have excluded untreated schizophrenia, and it seems psychopathy, from the possible diagnoses in Bryant's case. Both these conditions must have been possible explanations for the killer's extraordinary action, and are very much more common than Asperger's syndrome.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Taleban terror halts UN relief

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

THE United Nations refugee agency has frozen all its programmes in Kabul, the Afghan capital, because of increasing security concern for its local staff, many of whom have been detained by the Taleban administration.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Islamabad, the Pakistan capital, said it had become increasingly difficult for the agency to operate in Kabul as half of its 22 local staff members had disappeared and others were being harassed.

"We simply cannot function in this situation," Rupert Colville, the Islamabad-based UNHCR representative said. The decision to suspend the programme has come with the arrival of the harsh winter. "It has been a very difficult decision but we don't have any choice," he said.

The UNHCR has been involved in more than a dozen projects, including distribution of construction materials, quilts and food to the vulnerable, mostly widows, in the war-devastated city. The agency has 40 members of staff in the capital, of whom 22 are Afghans. The UN agency has faced serious problems since the Islamic movement swept Kabul in September.

Last month Taleban militia arrested one of the agency's drivers when he went to the market to buy medicines. His whereabouts are not known. Three other local staff members were arrested on November 12 as they left the office. Despite efforts by the agency, the Taleban administration has not released them.

The worst incident of harassment occurred last week when the house of an international member of the agency was ransacked by armed Taleban fighters. The attackers occupied the house for five hours and threatened him before leaving in the morning.

The other local staff members, including women, are too frightened to come to work. "At least seven women staffers have been forcibly stopped from coming by Taleban authorities," Mr Colville said. "We cannot run our programmes with half of our local staff missing and others living in constant fear."

He said that the agency would be prepared to resume its operation only after Taleban guaranteed the safety of its staff.

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Rifkind blasts Israeli policy

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday gave Israel a blunt warning that its friends were finding it increasingly difficult to support the Jewish state as long as the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu continued to build new settlements.

In unusually sharp remarks, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, told Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, that his country's reputation was being damaged by its policy of building new settlements. During a visit to Hebron two weeks ago, Mr Rifkind underlined Britain's view that all such settlements were illegal.

Mr Rifkind also criticised the lack of movement in negotiations on withdrawing Israeli troops from Hebron. And he gave Mr Mordechai a warning that the continuing closure of Israel's frontiers to Palestinian workers was leading to growing frustration in Gaza and the occupied territories. He said many Palestinians were losing faith in the peace process, and Israel needed to distinguish between terrorists and those who were becoming sympathetic to terrorism out of frustration.

Mr Rifkind criticised the Israeli court which this week imposed only a fine of less than a penny on four soldiers found guilty of fatally shooting a Palestinian at a road block. He said this gave an impression that Israel put little value on the Palestinian life.

Mr Mordechai, who is in Britain on a private visit, will be having talks today with Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary.

TUFAN TURANLI

Divers at the wreck of the fifth-century BC boat with its cargo of amphoras

'Bermuda Triangle' of ancient wrecks puzzles Aegean divers

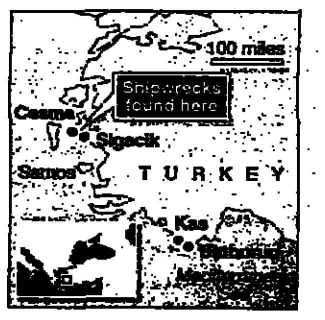
FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

MARINE archaeologists responsible for the discovery of the world's oldest known shipwreck, the Bronze Age boat at Uluburun, have revealed another remarkable find off the coast of Turkey.

Divers, acting on a sponge-diver's tip and searching outside their normal survey area, located what appears to be a mini "Bermuda Triangle" of seven sunken vessels, including the only known boat from the fifth century BC.

The latest find was identified through a cargo of amphoras containing resin lying on the seabed which had been loaded 2,500 years ago on the vessel. The rest of the cargo is preserved along with the remains of the hull buried under a bank of sand.

Preliminary analysis of the clay amphoras suggests that the boat is, after the Uluburun site, the second oldest known shipwreck in the region, dating from the beginning of the Classical Greek age. The vessel may have foundered while trading between the island of Samos and the city of Teos, or what is now Sigacik on Turkey's Aegean coast, just south of the Cesme peninsula.



That this ancient ship found its way to the same watery grave is puzzling staff of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A. and M. University, who discovered the vessels. The six other boats, the latest being an Ottoman steamer called the *Inayet* sunk in 1902, are all within a few hundred yards of one another. Yet the spot is not known to be dangerous. It is precisely for this reason that no one bothered for so long to look for wrecks there, according to Tufan Turanli, who headed the survey team that made the discovery.

He said he was acting on a tip-off from a sponge diver who spoke of finding an amphora nearby. Many of the other boats, including a Roman ship and a Byzantine vessel carrying millstones, would normally inspire academic interest in their own right. For the moment, however, all has been eclipsed by the excitement of the discovery of the Greek ship.

The hull, about 49ft long, is lying at a recoverable depth of around 130ft. Its examination, expected to begin next summer, will fill important gaps in the history of seafaring and the evolution of shipbuilding. Examination of its contents will provide the most complete snapshot of commercial life and trading relations of this early period.

The Uluburun wreck was identified in 1982 simply from a few glass ingots on the seabed near the town of Kas. Its excavation is forcing historians to revise their knowledge of the late Bronze Age.

Divers uncovered a treasure trove of goods from Africa to Afghanistan, including ebony and ivories and a gold scarab of Queen Nefertiti of Egypt.

Poll fraud claimed in Zambia

Lusaka: A human rights alliance has accused President Chiluba's party of "rampant vote-buying" in yesterday's Zambian presidential and general elections (Jan Raath writes). With two thirds of the vote counted, Mr Chiluba's MMD was heading for a landslide. The alliance's claim strengthens the bid of Kenneth Kaunda, the former President, who was barred from contesting and intends to ask the Supreme Court to invalidate the poll. But the Electoral Commission said it was satisfied it was "free and fair".

Appeal to EU on beef closure

Brussels: The European Commission is to investigate a complaint by the Hard Rock Café that the closure of its Paris branch broke European Union law (Leyla Linton writes). French police shut the restaurant this month when they found minced beef which they said had been illegally imported from Britain. But the Hard Rock Café says the meat came from Irish cattle, processed in England, and legally imported.

US reward for hostage clues

Islamabad: America announced a substantial cash reward for verifiable information on the whereabouts of Dr Donald Hutchings, a US citizen abducted in the Indian state of Kashmir about 16 months ago (Zahid Hussain writes). Dr Hutchings and two Britons, Keith Mandan and Paul Wells, have been held captive since July 4, 1995, by the Al Faran separatist group.

Jordan lovers to die for murder

Amman: A mother of nine and her lover have been sentenced to death for killing the woman's husband with rat poison, the *Jordan Times* reported. It said they killed Ahmad Mireeh, 60, because they believed he would never grant his 35-year-old wife a divorce. The couple married when she was 13 years old. *(Reuter)*

Tribute to death railway victims

Bangkok: Australia will build a museum in Thailand to commemorate the Allied forces who died building the Burma-Thailand "death railway" during the Second World War, an embassy official said. The Thai Cabinet has endorsed the plan. *(AFP)*

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France to give teenagers five-day drill on how to become a model citizen

From Adam Sage
in Paris

FRENCH teenagers — female as well as male — will have to go on five-day civic instruction courses under plans to replace national conscription.

Anyone who fails to take part in the course will be unable to apply for a civil service job, enter higher education or obtain social security.

All 18-year-olds will be told of their "rights and duties" as French citizens, given a medical check-up and receive career advice during the course.

Brushing aside criticism that its "citizen encounters" will turn into five days of teenage mayhem, the Government will signal its determination to press ahead with the scheme by setting up a pilot project next year. Details of the proposals were leaked to the French media yesterday.

With military service due to be phased out on the orders of President Chirac early next century, senior politicians on both sides of the divide have said that an obligatory "rendez-vous" is necessary to preserve a sense of national cohesion. Some rightwingers have called for up to six months of civic instruction as the only way of preventing the breakdown of French society.

But the Cabinet of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, decided that this was too costly and too difficult to impose on a rebellious youth. Instead it opted for a minimum five-day course to be run by 1,000 civilians and up to 7,000 military personnel. "The shorter the courses, the more they will be tolerated," a source in the Prime Minister's office said.

The 12 civic instruction centres to be set up across the country will be capable of housing up to 800 teenagers at a time. All teenagers on the courses will undergo a medical examination, an analysis of their performance at school and an assessment of their prospects in higher education or work. They will also be given details of France's institutions and defence force, and told how to be a better citizen. The Government says it plans to offer a deeper understanding of "the rights and duties emanating from participation in the national community" but has yet to spell out what this will entail.

However, it is known that President Chirac wants to use the course to encourage 18-year-olds to undertake state-sponsored charity work before looking for a job or place at university.

A "citizen-mediator" will be on hand to prevent conflicts between the teenagers themselves, or between the teeangers and their instructors. The scheme should be in operation for males by 1999 and will become obligatory for females from 2003. The proposals, designed to dampen criticism over the abolition of national service, are nonetheless certain to prove controversial. Opponents say five days is not long enough to be taken seriously by teenagers, who will be tempted to see the "rendez-vous citoyen" as a giant holiday camp.

Leading article, page 23

London connection puts Berlusconi back in the dock

From Richard Owen in Rome

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the media tycoon and leader of the opposition Centre Right, goes on trial today in Milan on new and potentially damaging corruption charges.

The evidence will be partly based on documents seized by the Serious Fraud Office from the London offices of his Fininvest business empire which allegedly reveal a complex secret network of offshore companies and Swiss bank accounts.

The charges of false accounting and illegal party financing, which he denies, are the most serious yet brought against the flamboyant former Prime Minister. On the other hand, the trial is likely to be adjourned the moment it begins, a reflection of the fact that the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption drive launched four years ago is in chaos and the Italian legal system cannot cope.

Five thousand officials, politicians and businessmen have been investigated since the collapse of the Christian Democrats in 1992, and charges have been laid against 2,000 in what the press dubbed *Tangentopoli* (Bribesville). However, only 300 have actually been tried, and a mere handful have gone to jail, with the rest either acquitted or freed pending appeal.

Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate who launched "Clean Hands" in Milan, last week resigned as a minister in the Centre Left Government of Romano Prodi because he has come under investigation for alleged "irregularities". He claims that his most powerful victims, including Signor Berlusconi and his younger brother Paolo, are conducting a vendetta against him.

Paolo Berlusconi and Cesare Previti, the former Defence Minister in the shortlived 1994 Berlusconi administration, are on trial — intermittently — in Brescia for allegedly blackmailing Signor Di Pietro into resigning as a magistrate two years ago.

In January this year, Signor Berlusconi went on trial for alleged complicity in the bribery of tax inspectors auditing his media and advertising subsidiaries.

Because of the Byzantine complexities of the legal system, and the sheer workload of the anti-corruption magistrates, this first trial shows no sign of reaching a conclusion.

Signor Berlusconi has used his showbusiness skills and control of the media to capitalise on popular discontent over the Prodi Government's attempts to impose a "Euro tax" to bring Italy into line with the Maastricht single currency criteria.

However, Signor Berlusconi's chances of re-election have been dented by continuing corruption charges. Lawyers say the fact that he tried for six months to prevent the London documents reaching the Milan court shows he realises how damaging the latest trial could be.

The Fininvest papers were seized in a raid in April — carried out at the request of Italian magistrates — on the Regent Street offices of Edsaco, Signor Berlusconi's London agents, and the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Lawyers say the documents show Fininvest paid $6.5 million into a Swiss bank account allegedly controlled by Bettino Craxi, Prime Minister in the 1980s, in return for "favourable" rulings by the Craxi Government relating to Signor Berlusconi's labyrinthine business interests.

Signor Craxi was convicted of corruption in 1994 and fled to Tunisia to escape a 20-year prison sentence. This week he was jailed for a further five and a half years in absentia.

Lawyers say that the London papers go beyond the Craxi connection and reveal a much wider network of offshore companies and Swiss bank accounts used by Fininvest for alleged "false accounting".

Berlusconi: first trial not yet concluded

DENIS DOYLE/AP

Fascist homage to Franco

Three diehard supporters of General Franco, the Spanish dictator, give the Fascist salute at his tomb in the Valley of the Fallen, 18 miles northwest of Madrid. They were among 200 melancholy old Fascists who assembled yesterday to pay homage to El Caudillo on the 21st anniversary of his death (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The atmosphere was pregnant with the remembrance of things past. A man present said: "We are Spain's last patriots." Later, the group, composed mainly of people in their seventies, traded abuse with left-wing protesters, "damned Reds" as they called them.

Drivers' gridlock forces hint of Paris offer

Paris: Traffic jams spread across France yesterday as lorry drivers set up more roadblocks in support of their campaign for better pay and a shorter working week (Adam Sage writes).

On the third day of the strike some motorways, including the A6 that links Paris and Lyons, were shut down as lorries were parked across the road. Bordeaux, where Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is Mayor, faced gridlock as all access routes were closed.

Police said there were miles of jams around most provincial cities and advised travellers to stay at home or take the train. The hauliers want payment for all the hours spent away from home and not just for time on the road. They also want to work a maximum of 48 hours a week and to retire at 55.

Owners of road haulage companies say they would like to meet the demands, but cannot do so because of high taxes — throwing an unwanted ball into the Government's court. Sources suggested the Government was prepared to compromise.

'Fighting' Yeltsin thanks Russians

From Richard Beeston
in Moscow

FOR the first time in more than a month, President Yeltsin last night appeared on Russian television to tell the people he was in fighting mood and would soon be back in control of the country.

Wearing a fur hat and down jacket and holding on to the arm of his granddaughter Masha, he looked thin, frail and slightly dazed after his quintuple heart bypass operation two weeks ago. Nevertheless, as he walked through the grounds of the Central Clinical Hospital, accompanied by his wife, Naina, and daughter, Tatyana, he spoke clearly and appeared confident of making a full recovery, and thanked the people for their support during the operation.

"I would not say that I am firmly back on my feet, but the doctors have done their business," he said. Doctors yesterday removed his stitches and he is expected to leave hospital today to recuperate at the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow.

Mr Yeltsin has been trying to defuse the potentially explosive situation in neighbouring Belarus. President Lukashenko vowed yesterday to continue his struggle with the Minsk parliament over plans to hold a referendum on Sunday that would give him sweeping new powers.

Although he had lengthy talks with Mr Yeltsin about the crisis in Belarus, he did not turn up to Russian-sponsored peace talks last night in Smolensk, saying he was too busy.

Leading article, page 23
Photograph, page 26

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the telltale signs of Parkinson's ■ The problem with tattoos ■ When stress can protect women

A killer's creeping advance

The placing of a stone in memory of Sir John Betjeman in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, has recently been celebrated by a service taken by the Dean. Lady Wilson of Rievaulx, the widow of the former Prime Minister, made a short speech. There were readings by Joanna Lumley and the actor Kenneth Cranham, and the author Patrick Leigh Fermor delivered an address.

Sir John continued to inspire, amuse and intrigue his admirers despite the slow advance of Parkinson's disease. Sir John's lack of facial expression, and a voice which was becoming increasingly soft and slow, both classic signs of the disease, might have detracted from some people's observations on life and times in general, and literature in particular, but in his case it seemed to give them an additional quality.

Betjeman: classic symptoms

Sir John was not alone in his troubles. There are 100,000 people in Britain with the disease, and at 65, one in 100 of the population can expect to have some symptoms of it.

Contrary to popular belief, Parkinson's does not affect only the aged. One in 20 of those who develop it first show evidence of the disease before they are 40.

Parkinson's starts insidiously and thereafter the symptoms gradually worsen over many years. It is not uncommon for patients to have the condition for 25 to 30 years.

Movements become increasingly laboured and clumsy as the disease advances, the handwriting becomes ever smaller and more spidery, the person is slower to smile than they used to be and the face takes on an inscrutable look.

The loss of facial expression means that there is no immediate lightening of the face, and a ready smile, when an old friend is greeted. If a compliment is passed the person with Parkinson's disease does not respond.

These changes can make it appear that someone with Parkinson's is both arrogant and surly. The delayed response when taking part in a general conversation can also make them appear slow-witted, rather than merely slow-talking.

Often the initial symptoms of the disease are dismissed by the patient, and their doctors, as the consequences of ageing, and the diagnosis is delayed until the classic signs of rigidity of limb movements, the characteristic slow shake, and the curious walk of the sufferers, make it obvious.

The television film about Jeremy Thorpe this week illustrated many of the signs and symptoms of Parkinson's disease. The stoop, the rapid shuffling gait, interspersed with pauses and coupled with a lack of arm-swinging which would drive a drill sergeant crazy, together with the blank face, reduced blink rate and soft, indistinct voice were all classic features, but sad to see in a man who had once dominated the House of Commons.

Recently, American scientists claim to have isolated a gene which is responsible for some cases. It has been known for many years that in some people there is a genetic predisposition to develop the condition. One survey suggests that having a close relative with it made the chance of developing the trouble 15 times more likely. This is unduly pessimistic, but most experts agree that the risk is at least twice as great to those who have a family history.

Other factors also predispose to Parkinson's disease. And, strangely, an unhealthy urban lifestyle spent in smoke-filled rooms provide some protection.

The disease is one of the few conditions which is less common to those who have smoked cigarettes for most of their lives and there is less chance of developing it if someone has lived in a city, rather than if they have enjoyed a rural lifestyle.

The water from the tap may taste unpleasant, but those who tolerate it are less likely to have the disease than those who have revelled in the sparkling waters from a rural well.

Conversely, there is some evidence that antioxidant vitamins A, C and E may slow its progress.

Its treatment was revolutionised when it was discovered that Levodopa eased its symptoms. More recently, the value of Levodopa therapy has been enhanced by the use of such drugs as Madopar, which inhibits the enzymes which break down Levodopa. These enzymes were able to neutralise Levodopa before it could exert its action on the brain.

LONDON FEATURES

Digitally challenged: Pamela Anderson, and, below left, her wedding ring tattoo

Taking out Pamela's tattoo

THE news that Pamela Anderson, star of *Baywatch*, plans a divorce after 21 months of marriage is likely to present an unusual problem — removing the "wedding ring" tattooed on her finger. Professor Nicholas Lowe, the Harley Street cosmetic dermatologist, says it will depend on the colour of the tattoo. Red and brown tattoo marks are the most difficult to erase. Blue, greens and black are comparatively easily eradicated. A large tattoo may need up to 12 removal treatments at anything from £200 to £1,000 a time.

Why Lynda of Ambridge has a healthy heart

It is now accepted that post-menopausal women are as likely to suffer from coronary heart disease as men, even though the treatment they get is often inferior.

General Practitioner magazine reports that a recent survey by research workers from the University of Dundee has demonstrated that the factors which predispose women to develop heart disease are different from those which are dangerous to men.

The Dundee study has revealed that those women who have a character like Lynda Snell, of *The Archers* on Radio 4, and many other busy, competitive, late middle-aged women of the type who are constantly lampooned in films and on television, are less likely to develop heart disease.

It is the quiet, self-effacing women, who retain a feminine approach to life into middle age, who are the vulnerable ones. In medical terminology, possessing a type A self-stressing personality is cardio-protective in women.

> 'It is the quiet, self-effacing women who are vulnerable'

When assessing the risk of heart disease, housing conditions are much more important to women than to men. If a man is living in a second-rate house in a deprived area, these do not even figure among the top 12 factors which are likely to lead to cardiovascular troubles.

However, where women are concerned, living conditions of this sort are an important consideration. Women are also more likely to develop heart disease if their work does not keep them physically exercised.

A consultation with their family doctor will also display other signs and symptoms which are of a different significance in the two sexes. In men, the total amount of cholesterol present in their blood is more important than whether a high proportion of this blood fat is carried in the high or low density lipoprotein forms.

In women, the amount of low density lipoprotein cholesterol (the more pernicious form) is the relevant factor, rather than the total cholesterol.

Doctors do not only measure cholesterol in the patient's blood but also another blood fat, the triglycerides. In women, the level of the triglycerides is highly significant: these triglyceride levels should be low.

There are also changes in the importance which can be attributed to blood pressure. In the Dundee survey of the female diastolic blood pressure, the lower of the two readings is of no significance.

In men, it is the fourth most reliable indicator of the likelihood of a coronary thrombosis and is regarded as a more important risk factor than smoking. In both sexes the sistolic pressure, the higher reading, is important.

Being overweight is much more dangerous in men than women; in fact, weight is not included in the 12 important factors for females. Diabetes is a risk factor in both sexes but is relatively more important for women. However, men should watch their vitamin C intake, which should be high, and their alcohol intake, which should not be more than moderate.

In both sexes, light to moderate drinking, whatever the nature of the alcohol, results in a lower incidence of heart disease than in those who abstain or drink heavily. Those who drink red wine have a particular advantage.

Although the interest in the Dundee research is mainly in the differences between men and women in the relationship of their lifestyles and various factors to heart disease, several other elements are equally important.

Cigarette smoking is hazardous for both sexes. And where men and women have previously had cardiac symptoms, this is a good indication that steps should be taken to prevent a heart attack.

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Not all dementia is Alzheimer's

A REPORT by the charity Research Into Ageing says that 25 per cent of patients who have been told they have Alzheimer's disease have been misdiagnosed. These patients are, in fact, suffering from Lewy body dementia.

These patients need different treatment from that recommended for Alzheimer's and some of the drugs used to control the symptoms of Alzheimer's can make them worse. Unfortunately, the difference between the two dementias is not generally recognised, and all forms of intellectual loss in older age groups is apt to be designated Alzheimer's. Elizabeth Mills, director of Research Into Ageing, said: "Sufferers from Lewy body dementia and their families need very special support."

In Lewy body dementia the degree of disability fluctuates and during the bad bouts, which sometimes last for days or weeks, the patient may suffer hallucinations, seeing, talking to and even establishing relationships with non-existent people and animals. While deluded, the patients may be aggressive. In between the bad bouts, patients with Lewy body dementia are all too aware of their condition and the problems it causes their families. Many have blackouts, during which time they could suffer a dangerous fall. Others may show some of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Cabbies drive down their sperm count

TOLERATING less experienced road users, putting up with the behaviour of the fares and surviving traffic jams all conspire to do little for a taxi driver's blood pressure. Furthermore, cab drivers don't have time for exercise and are apt to spend hours playing cards in smokey cafés.

It has been accepted for 40 years that the price taxi drivers pay for an independent lifestyle is an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, but until recently nobody had thought to do research into the effect of cab driving on the reproductive system.

A report in the *General Journal of Industrial Medicine* has compared the sperm count of 72 Roman taxi drivers with the count in an equal number of carefully matched controls — men who are not driving for their living.

The taxi drivers' chance of achieving fatherhood is not improved by their occupation. Their total sperm count, and the number of normal sperm, is reduced even when other factors such as smoking and lack of exercise are taken into account.

This new report confirms other studies that suggest long hours at the wheel reduce male fertility.

SECTION 2

Robert Altman evokes Thirties jazz and sleaze in the film Kansas City

ARTS, pages 36-39

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Fashion's strangest muse?

Grace Bradberry on a quirky aristocrat with an eye for bizarre talent who inspires Alexander McQueen and Philip Treacy

Isabella Blow is an eccentric English aristocrat with a love of hats and a tendency to wear lipstick on her chin. She is also one of the most influential people in British fashion.

Last month, as Paris buzzed with rumours that Alexander McQueen, designer of the notorious "bumster" trousers, would take over from John Galliano at Givenchy, Isabella was there at his side, in the front row of Rifat Ozbek's show at the Moulin Rouge.

And later that month, when McQueen stood up to make his acceptance speech at the British Fashion Awards, where he had just been named Designer of the Year, it was Isabella he thanked — along with his mum. Later in the evening, Philip Treacy, whose hats dominate both Ascot and the Paris catwalks, also paid her an effusive tribute.

To these two men, Mrs Blow, 38, the wife of Bristol barrister Detmar Blow, is muse, confidante and kingmaker. Julien Macdonald, a Welsh knitwear designer spotted by Karl Lagerfeld even before he left the Royal College of Art, has become her third protégé. It is an enviable position: when McQueen graduated from St Martin's in 1992, she bought his entire collection. With her help, his apparently absurd style sparked the whole hipster revival.

Her ability to anticipate an improbable trend verges on the uncanny. She is the woman who, four years ago, was to be seen wearing high-waisted Big Knickers under see-through dresses — a look that appeared this autumn on the catwalks of Milan and Paris.

Yet despite her undeniable eye for talent, there are plenty of people in the fashion world who regard Mrs Blow as a ridiculous figure — at best an eccentric, at worst a groupie whose social connections and wealth enable her to play the fashion *grande dame*, in the manner of Diana Vreeland, without the talent to back it up.

Like Vreeland, her appearance is arresting rather than beautiful. She has protuberant eyes, a slash of red lipstick, a toothy smile. The aquiline nose adds a touch of aristocratic hauteur.

At the dinner after the British Fashion Awards last month, her face was scarcely visible. On this occasion she was wearing a truly remarkable McQueen dress which rose up over a kind of crown on the top of her head, then plunged down as far as her waist in a veil at the front. The effect was pure Morticia Addams.

"It was extraordinary bad luck for her that soup was the first course," says Nicholas Coleridge, managing director of the *Vogue* publishers, Condé Nast, who was seated with Mrs Blow at dinner that night. "She sort of lifted it to about eye level for dinner, then dropped it down again."

'She's a character herself, so it rubs off on the designers'

And his assessment of "Alexander McQueen's so-called muse", as he called her? "Izzy Blow has given an awful lot of help to McQueen and others. Probably being a fashion designer is quite a lonely occupation and having somebody vivacious and noisy — I was about to say daft, but I'm not going to — cheers them up."

So what exactly does Mrs Blow do? People have a certain amount of trouble defining this. Her "job" is as a stylist, putting together hats, shoes and dresses for photographic shoots and on the catwalk. She was once style editor of *Tatler*, her official title is now contributing editor at *Vogue*, but her exact role there is vague.

"Her talent is really taking up designers and supporting them verbally — and I'm sure financially — and creating a buzz about them," says Lucinda Chambers, fashion director of *Vogue*. "She's a character herself, so it rubs off on the designers, and they also get publicity as a result of it."

But then, Mrs Blow is not the sort of woman whom anyone necessarily expects to have a job. She is the granddaughter of Sir Henry John Delves Broughton, the man cleared of the murder of Lord Erroll in the infamous "Happy Valley" trial in Kenya, and a cousin of the aristocratic supermodel, Honor Fraser, whom she encouraged to go on the catwalk. Her father, Sir Evelyn, died in 1993, leaving her only £5,000. Her mother, Helen, had been his second wife. His third wife, Rona, received £7 million.

Despite this financial setback, Isabella and her husband live in considerable style in his ancestral home in Gloucestershire, where tapestries and portraits of Tudor royalty adorn the walls. They married in 1989 (Isabella had earlier been briefly married to an American). Among the couple's eclectic range of acquaintances is Princess Margaret, who refers to Mrs Blow as, simply, "The Hat".

Mrs Blow was educated at Heathfield boarding school, then attended Columbia University in New York, before Anna Wintour, editor of American *Vogue*, took her on as a fashion assistant. Then, in 1987, Mark Boxer gave her the job of style editor of *Tatler*, where she set about creating memorable society portraits.

But it was a limited sphere of influence, and many in the fashion world believed that she would remain a fringe eccentric. It would be an easy mistake to make.

The fashion world is, of course, rich in colourful sacred monsters — but Mrs Blow is eccentric enough to stand out. And her status as muse to McQueen may be about to pay dividends. In March, *The New York Times* described her as "the key to the two strongest shows in London this season — Alexander McQueen and Philip Treacy". With McQueen's move to Paris, his muse may be about to storm the most prestigious ramparts in fashion.

SEAN ELLIS

Isabella Blow, king-maker, confidante and muse, wears a Philip Treacy hat

How I was cut off by the fire

The drama in the Channel Tunnel has made us an island race once again, declares **Libby Purves**

TWO YEARS on from its first journey beneath the Channel, we were Le Shuttle virgins: crusty old shellbacks loyal to the ferry and to lurching across the Dover Strait in little sailing boats. On Monday, we decided on a whim to let technology take us over the water. Sorry, *under* the water. It is just as well we do not believe in a smart alec deity who would set fire to a lorry just to teach us a lesson.

The outward journey went smoothly: coasting down a slack M20, cruising beneath the white gantries and through the blandness of the pre-tunnel shopping mall, we began to believe in millennial Britain: efficient, Europhile, 25 minutes from mainland Europe in the Thatcherite affluence of your own car.

During the crossing there was an artfully stage-managed atmosphere of mild boredom, designed to neutralise tunnel nerves. And once you have got used to the peculiar sensation of sitting in a car seat which is swaying like a train, the novelty is over. So is the trip: half an hour from the Folkestone pay booth we were on the Calais bypass.

Altogether, I felt, this is the great anticlimax to our island history. RIP the romance of the Channel crossing: the Scarlet Pimpernel fleeing the Jacobites, Catholics fleeing Elizabeth I, the little ships of Dunkirk, the magic of the words *Fair stood the wind for France*, and jokes about "Fog in Channel, Continent cut off". All gone down the bland tunnel.

You know what happened. Driving confidently back on Tuesday towards its mouth, we turned on the Radio 4 news to hear of the freight train fire. We found Talk Radio emoting loudly: "Would you use the tunnel now? Ring us. What I want to know is, why doesn't it leak?" Radio 5 had 20 minutes of fashion features followed by a brief bulletin saying it would be "afternoon" before the tunnel reopened; then a French station, better informed, said it would be a full day or longer.

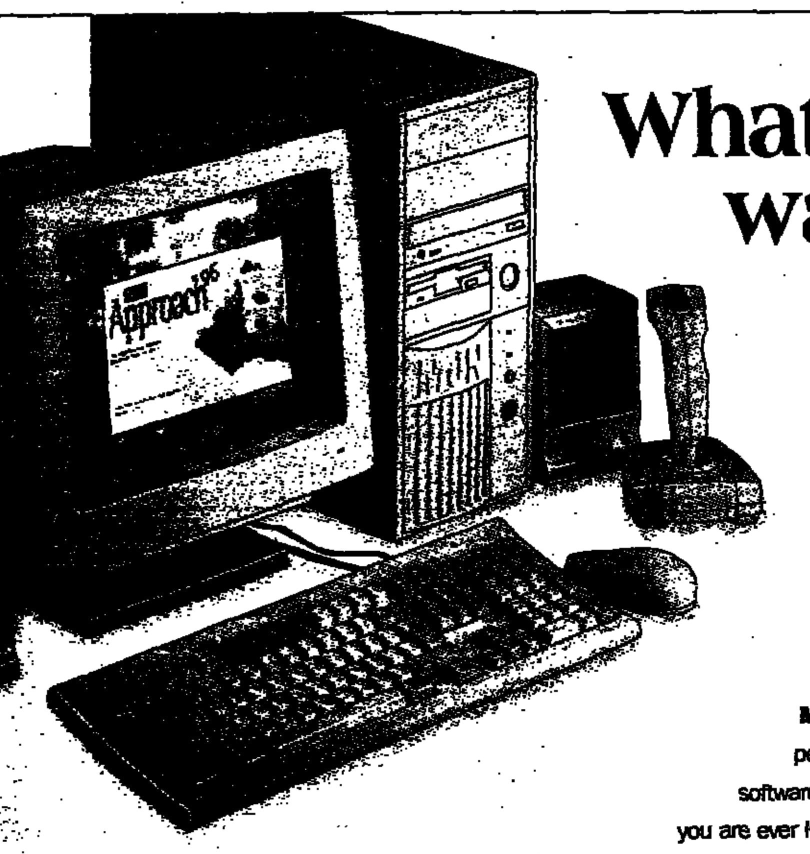
Thick snow began to fall. As we swerved off for Calais port, peering at road signs obscured by the blizzard, the French station announced that Channel ferries were severely disrupted by gales. Continent cut off. We passed a sign to Dunkirk. Maybe some little ships would come and get us.

'A sign said Dunkirk. Would some little ships come and get us?'

P & O ferry personnel took our shuttle tickets with visible giggles of *Schadenfreude*. There were three hours in the ferry queue while the *Pride of Burgundy* laboured towards us against a full south-easterly gale. After a crossing marked by jarring thuds as she fell off waves, there was half an hour of heaving and crashing outside Dover harbour because conditions were too wild for many ferries to manoeuvre together.

ABOARD our gallant ship, long polyglot queues formed for the single radio-telephone. The continentals were visibly dejected about their messed-up schedules and the way Britain had suddenly floated away, far from their grasp across wild water.

By contrast the British, even the most Eurostarry of them, were curiously cheerful. We had been robbed of our convenience, of the 21st-century dream. But we had been given back a very British adventure. We were reborn as an island nation, hard to reach and proud of it.



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What can The Ridings teach us?

Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, on what went wrong

Yesterday saw the publication of school league tables: today, the Office of Standards in Education launches its report on pupils who are excluded from school. What is happening in schools? Many who watched the recent *Panorama* programme on classroom anarchy at The Ridings School in Halifax must have been slumped in despair. The V-signs of the girls following the headteacher up the steps said it all: this was a school where there was neither authority nor respect: neither teaching nor learning. A school which, if it is in any sense typical, symbolises the failure of our state system of education.

It is not typical. This statement, given the huge impact of the television pictures, bears repetition. State education is alive and well. In 80 per cent of schools, pupils are ready and willing to learn.

The problems of The Ridings, however, cannot be ignored. What should be done about the 2 per cent of schools which fail their inspections? In the case of The Ridings, the headteacher was not tough enough. Too many teachers had given up. The education authority had given inadequate support.

But some people say the school's job was impossible. In the words of *The Times Educational Supplement*, this was a "leper" school trying to educate "ghetto" children. It was doomed from day one. The fault lay not with the teachers or the educational authority, but with divisive social and educational policies which have led inexorably to the creation of such schools.

We know from inspection evidence that some schools facing equally difficult circumstances are succeeding. Heywood School, for example, in Rochdale, has not excluded one pupil in five years. Pupils who have been excluded from other schools are now making good progress there. Such schools succeed with difficult pupils because they establish clear expectations. They take every opportunity to reward achievement. Daily routines are managed very carefully. Whereas the corridors at The Ridings were a race track, pupils at Heywood move quietly and sensibly around their school. Their behaviour is a testament to the skill and commitment of some outstanding teachers. It can be done: none of us should accept the bleakly deterministic view that some schools, like some children, are born to fail.

But isn't it true that current educational policies have made failures like The Ridings more likely? With more motivated and brighter pupils going to grant-maintained and grammar schools, is it not inevitable that this school would be left with a rump.

The answer is that if parents have the right to choose their children's schools, some schools will be more popular than others, and one is likely to become the most unpopular of all. This would almost certainly have been the case if Halifax had had a totally comprehensive system of education. In Calderdale, as in every other area of the country, a mix of pupils in each school can be achieved only if restrictions are imposed on parental choice. Whether or not such an approach is acceptable is for politicians and the electorate to decide. The failure of The Ridings cannot, however, be blamed entirely on the existence of nearby grammar and grant maintained schools.

Schools at the bottom of the popularity league must not be allowed to fail. The future of The Ridings depends upon three things: determined leadership, exclusion of pupils who reject the conventions of normal schooling, and motivation of teachers who have lost the will to improve. It is as easy to write down as it will be hard for the new head to achieve.

Yet schools such as Urchfont Primary in Wiltshire, which failed its inspection in 1993, show what can be achieved, and how quickly. Urchfont is now not just an adequate school, but a good one. Given a will to improve, a clear understanding of the problems, and steady application of management and classroom common sense, the most desperate situations can be remedied.

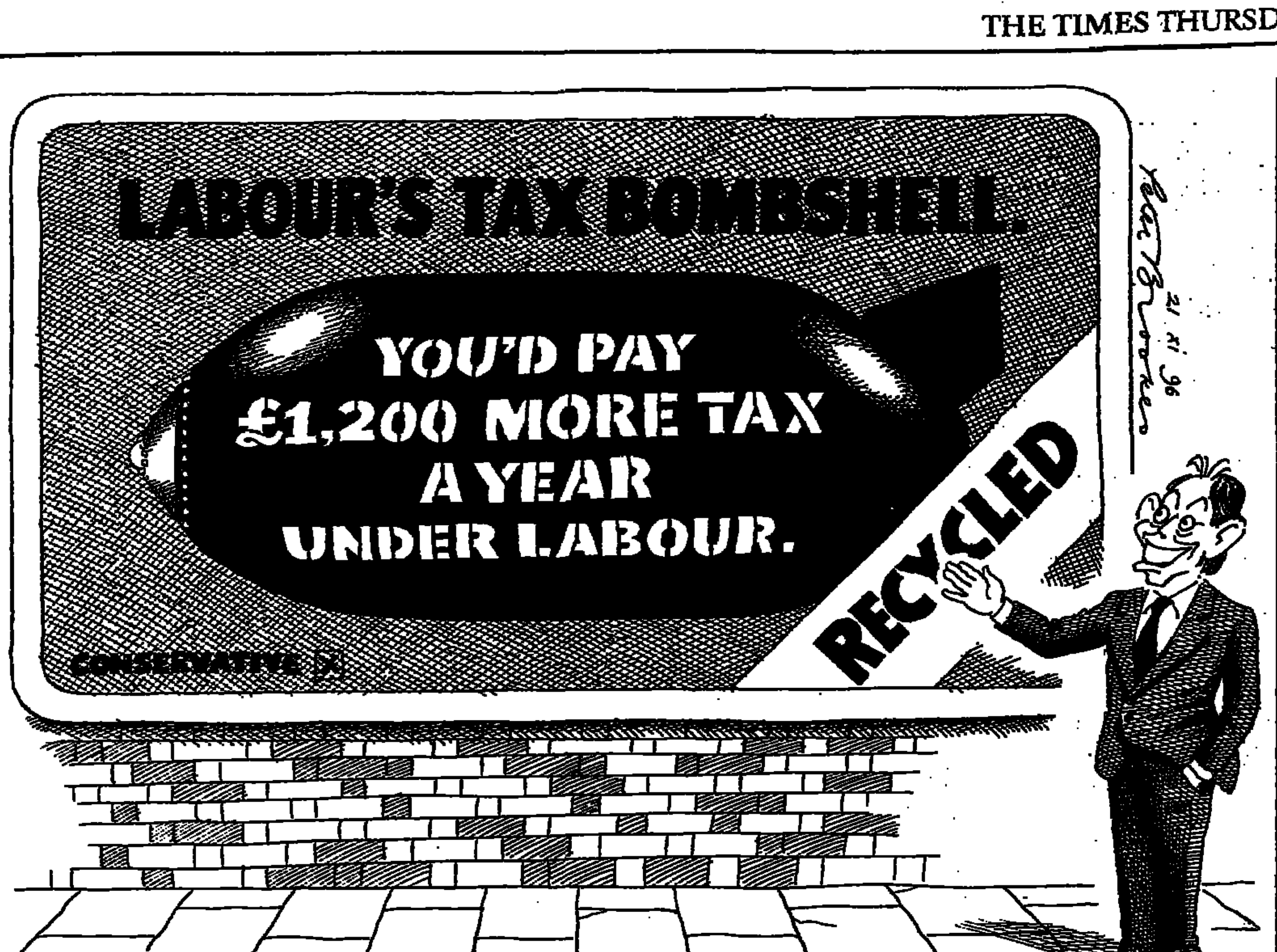
Failure at The Ridings cannot be blamed on selection

But we need to know which schools are failing. This is why the system of school inspection is so important. Problems need to be brought into the open. Those who would abolish inspections and return to dealing with school failures in private or not at all must be resisted by politicians of all parties.

What else can we do to improve the prospects of inner-city children? We need first to move on from our current preoccupation with sanctions to consider how bad behaviour can be avoided. We must spread the good practice of schools like Heywood. We should ensure that older pupils study subjects that are relevant to them and have the choice of vocational courses.

This is not to imply that sanctions will not be needed. There will be children who do not conform, and if they are ruining things for everyone else, special provision must be made for them. The problem here is that too few education authorities have thoroughly investigated the incidence and range of pupils' special educational needs. Too few have an appropriate range of provision. Exclusion is a necessary evil, but those who are excluded have a right to continued education. This is not always provided.

Finally, we need to acknowledge the obvious truth that children who leave primary schools unable to read are likely to mess around in secondary schools. They will misbehave because they are bored, because they know that they have failed, and because deviant behaviour bolsters their self-esteem. Nothing is more important in the drive to raise educational standards than the recognition that literacy matters and that present standards, particularly in inner-city primary schools, are nothing like good enough.



"Don't panic . . . this one's a damp squib . . ."

The geography of libel

Should the former Taoiseach be able to sue a British newspaper in London?

William Rees-Mogg

In November 1994, Albert Reynolds, then the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of the Irish Republic, nominated his Attorney General, Harry Whelehan, as President of the High Court. The nomination was challenged because Whelehan had apparently been dilatory in seeking the extradition of Brendan Smyth, a paedophile priest. Reynolds at first defended the nomination in the Dail, but later withdrew the defence. The Irish Labour Party, led by Dick Spring, felt it had been misled, and withdrew from the coalition. Mr Reynolds ceased to be Prime Minister. *The Sunday Times* then published an article, based on information from an Irish Labour Party source, headed "Goodbye, Gombeen Man. Why a fib too far proved fatal".

Mr Reynolds sued for libel in the English High Court. He refused a payment into court of £5,005, which would also have covered his costs up to that point. After a 24-day hearing, the jury found in his favour, but awarded him zero damages. Because the damages fell short of the sum paid into court, Mr Reynolds is liable for the bulk of the costs of both sides in the case, which have been estimated at around £1 million. *The Sunday Times* also pleaded qualified privilege, which is about to be argued. The accusation that Mr Reynolds knowingly lied had been made in the Dail itself.

Following the failure of the Botham-Lamb libel action against Imran Khan, which also resulted in heavy costs against the plaintiffs, the Reynolds case is a further warning against avoidable actions for defamation. Albert Reynolds has been a litigant before: he has previously taken £70,000 in damages off *The Sunday Times* and about £90,000 from other publications, including *The Guinness Book of Records*. Even now he is not a ruined man, though the costs will obviously be a serious blow to his finances.

The action itself was not frivolous, but was inappropriate. The charge of lying to parliament is a serious one to make against any prime minister. One cannot blame Mr Reynolds for wishing to demonstrate that his first statement to the Dail was true to the best of his belief when he made it. But it is hard to conceive of a less appropriate forum before which to bring his case. If a British Prime Minister were to be accused of lying to the House of Commons, that would be a matter for the House of Commons: a report of such a debate would have absolute privilege. In the same way, a charge of lying to the Dail is a matter for the Dail. It is heartening that the issue of qualified privilege is to be determined: in equity, statements in the Dail ought to have qualified privilege if former Irish Prime Ministers are to make them the subject of litigation in the English courts.

Mr Reynolds has stated that he wanted to clear his name because he felt "just absolutely dreadful" when he read the story. "A liar: I don't know any worse thing people could say of me." If he really cannot think of anything worse that people could say of him, he has a limited imagination. He survived decades in the knockabout world of Irish politics, jostling with such characters as Charlie Haughey. He can hardly be so thin-skinned he can think of nothing worse than being accused of a fib.

Some of his friends in Dublin have been saying that it is impossible for an Irishman to receive justice in a British court. The jury did not know that any sum had been paid into court, and therefore could not have known the consequence of their judgment in terms of costs. But what was Mr Reynolds doing in an English court anyway? The Republic of Ireland has been an independent country for more than 70 years. It is inconceivable that a British Prime Minister, brought down after some row in the House of Commons, would have chosen to sue *The Irish Times* in Dublin in order to vindicate himself.

The jury's actual finding seems perfectly reasonable. It came to the conclusion that *The Sunday Times* article was defamatory. It is a libel to assert that a Prime Minister has lied to his parliament or his colleagues. The jury members must have found that *The Sunday Times* had failed to prove that Mr Reynolds knew more than he claimed at the time of his first statement. They had heard the evidence. They then found that the article had not damaged him in Britain.

That also seems right to me. I had remembered from the reports of 1994 that Mr Reynolds had lost the premiership because of a row with the Labour Party over the Whelehan nomination, though I had forgotten Whelehan's name. The finer points of what Mr Reynolds had known or not known, or when, or of what he had said to Mr Spring had long since vanished from my memory. Beside the big event of an Irish Prime Minister resigning, *The Sunday Times* calling him a "Gombeen Man" or even a fibber seems trivial. In any case, I have a rather attractive picture of a Gombeen Man as a Yeatsian peddler, with a tray full of coloured ribbons. I would not have thought the worse of Albert Reynolds for being a Gombeen Man, even if the jury had held that he was one.

This is by no means the first time the British press has been threatened by an action for defamation by a foreign politician on matters arising from his domestic politics, nor is it the first time that has happened to *The Sunday Times*. In the early 1960s, when I was its Deputy Editor, *The Sunday Times* had a difficult case with a powerful African minister accused of corruption and intimidation. We reported the allegations, which we believed to be true. He threatened us with a writ for libel, and demanded an apology and damages. We refused, even though our witnesses were too scared to come to court. Fortunately, he did not pursue the matter further, but he could have done so and we would have had no real answer in law.

Mr Reynolds made £150,000 or so from his successful libel actions, but that is peanuts compared to the opportunities which might be open to President Mobutu of Zaire. Every newspaper in London has alleged that he has billions of dollars in secret Swiss bank accounts. None of us could get the businessmen who paid the bribes, the officials who transferred them into Swiss accounts, or the Swiss bankers themselves to give evidence in support of a plea of justification. Nor would it be any defence to say that Mobutu is widely believed to be corrupt: if one reports a suspicion, it is the fact and not the suspicion that one has to justify.

The press has an important job of reporting the affairs of other countries. In the United States it is almost impossible for anyone in public life to sue for defamation, because that is held to be against the guarantee of freedom of speech under the First Amendment. The British press reports the allegations which are made in the American press. Many of them are libellous. In some cases British newspapers could prove the truth of these allegations; but in other cases probably not. It is theoretically open to half the leading politicians of America and most of the leading film-stars to brief leading counsel and have a field day in the British courts.

There are two fundamental differences between defamation of domestic and foreign public figures. The standard of proof a newspaper ought to require of an allegation against a British public figure must be higher than mere suspicion. Yet it is impossible to report the affairs of foreign countries properly without reporting widely held suspicions as such. Take the current allegations of paedophile conduct against the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister, Elio Di Rupo. These are being universally reported in the British press, and rightly so. Yet I doubt if any British newspaper could prove the truth of them; the Belgian Parliament, which has opened an inquiry, may or may not have qualified privilege in British law. Technically the British press must be exposed to a Reynolds-type action for defamation by Di Rupo, and paedophile conduct is much more serious than lying.

There is a geography of reputation. Albert Reynolds has his reputation largely in Ireland, where they know him, not in England, where he is simply a foreign politician. The lesson of the Reynolds case is that there is no call for foreign statesmen to vindicate their domestic politics in our law courts.

Save St Pancras, my lords

Giles Worsley on today's vote about the station's fate

The technical clauses of complex parliamentary Bills are so mind-numbingly boring and obscure that they are seldom read with the attention they deserve. That is the only reason I can see why one of the most insidious threats to Britain's historic buildings since the demolition of the Euston Arch should be stealthily creeping through Parliament almost completely unnoticed.

St Pancras Station is only a few hundred yards from that late, lamented arch. For years it lay dirty and neglected, victim to British Rail's undisguised desire to knock it down. But times change. Today, with its brightly coloured brickwork gleaming in the sun, St Pancras is the maiden aunt of Britain's historic buildings, eccentric but much loved. Quite rightly it is listed Grade I. So you might think that St Pancras was safe. You would be wrong.

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill has its third and final reading in the House of Lords this evening, and if it goes through unamended, the future of St Pancras will be very uncertain. The same will be true of any other historic building that might subsequently be threatened by a similar development project.

That St Pancras should have been chosen as the terminal for the new high-speed rail link to the Channel Tunnel is excellent news. After years of sad underuse, it will at last have a role that suits its dignity. What better way could there be to hail the new railway age than to bring the high-speed train to rest under the arch of William Barlow's great train shed, universally regarded as one of the triumphs of Victorian engineering?

The trouble is that if the Bill is passed as it stands, we have no idea what St Pancras will look like when the first train arrives. In an unprecedented move, the Government has not only removed works at St Pancras from normal listed building control, but has also abandoned its own ultimate power to decide whether major aspects of proposed alterations are acceptable.

Adapting a Victorian railway station to the demands of the 21st century will not be easy. The train shed will have to be more than doubled in size, electric gantries and security barriers will have to be installed, and escalators and check-in facilities will be needed to cope with the vast increase in passengers.

The superb restoration and extension of Liverpool Street shows that a station can actually be enhanced as modern engineering demands are met if the building is treated with sensitivity and respect. The St Pancras developers London and Continental have made ringing declarations of good intent, but what happens to the station will be left in their unfettered hands. Who can say how the designs may change when finance proves tight or time presses?

While there is a procedure for agreeing plans with English Heritage and Camden, the local authority, key areas of work are specifically excluded. No objections to any plans for demolition to clear space for machinery of station equipment, or to the position or size of any other parts of the station, apart from the shops, need be heeded. This would mean, for instance, that they would have no control over the design of the northern extension of the train shed or the extent of demolition of the ornate western flank of the building, nor over the internal appearance of the station.

All that would restrain the developers are the "Planning and Heritage Minimum Requirements", which consist of little more than vague statements such as "the open nature and spatial integrity of St Pancras train shed will be substantially retained".

This unprecedented situation has come about because the Bill is a flagship Private Finance Initiative. The Departments of Transport and the Environment are determined that anything which might put off potential investors should be bulldozed out of the way. And the Department of National Heritage, which should have been fighting conservation's corner, is far too weak a department to put up any opposition to these two heavy-hitting ministries.

To a Government committed to deregulation, the continuing strength of conservation legislation stands out as something of an anomaly. Are the skimpy heritage provisions in this Bill prototypes for a new approach to planning controls if the Conservatives should return to power after the next election, or perhaps after the election after that?

Desperate to hustle this Bill through with minimal publicity, the Government has brought forward the third reading by a week without placing it in last Friday's business statement, and has acted to forestall a threatened backbench revolt in the Lords.

There is an easy solution to the problem. The Government must retain a reserve power to deal with any problems with the detailed designs. It must retain the right to insist that unnecessary harm to the building's old fabric be avoided. It is up to the Lords to ensure that this essential power is restored.

The author is Editor of Perspectives on Architecture.

Knavish tricks

THE TIMES DIARY

THE CONSERVATIVE Party is being dragged inadvertently into another sleaze war. One of its spin-doctors has become embroiled in a libel action starting in the High Court next Monday over British Airways' dirty tricks campaign.

Eileen Wise, formerly of Disney and now head of news at Central Office, as well as personal press adviser to Norma Major on her book tour, is acting as a character witness for the plaintiff, Brian Basham, a lifelong socialist.

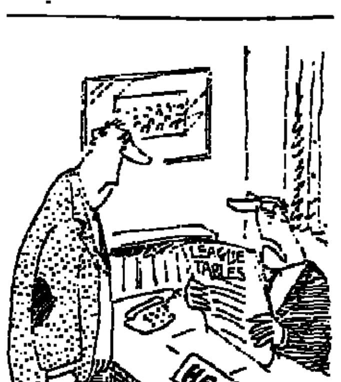
The case concerns allegations in the book *Dirty Tricks: British Airways' Secret War against Virgin Atlantic*. Basham is suing its author Martyn Gregory. Wise used to be married to Basham, who has worked for Hastings Banda of Malawi, the late Robert Maxwell and my dear friend Mohamed Al Fayed.

Senior Tories are mortified: some individuals in Central Office are gleeful. But yesterday, Wise was keeping calm: "This is an entirely private matter related to something that happened several years ago and has nothing whatsoever to do with my job here."

● *Not leaves on the line this time, nor the wrong sort of snow, but sheep. Paddington confirms that trains from Wales were delayed yesterday after a flock wandered onto the line at Wootton Bassett, west of Swindon. A woolly excuse.*

Keep it brief

GOOD NEWS: Rachel Lawrence, daughter of Sir Ivan Lawrence, the bristling MP for Burton, has been voted Achiever of the Year at the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust's annual awards at the Dorchester. Miss Lawrence, who suffers from the condition, is a practising barrister. She was proposed by an old school friend, Samantha Walker, who, cosily enough, is Sir Ivan's researcher. "I hope her award will inspire her to push a couple of Chanel suits my way," said Miss Walker. Sir Ivan, a flinty backbench presence, is tickled. "Rachel is extremely talented and certainly makes much shorter speeches than I do." Sir Ivan holds the record for the longest speech in Parliament this century.



"You're on a free transfer, Boggins"

● *For any red-braces types still left over from the Eighties, forget drinking Beaujolais nouveau for the next few days. The French unions, transport workers this time, are blocking motorways across France. This, after the Channel Tunnel fire, has left lorry-loads of the wine unable to reach Britain today for Beaujolais nouveau day. On the positive side, a few more days may give the stuff time to improve.*

No ferrets

SIR EDWARD Heath, a mean tippler in his day, has secured a political triumph to be proud of (at last). He has saved a 226-year-old pub in his constituency, Old Bexley and Sidcup, from being renamed the Ferret and Trouser-leg. Its creaking inn sign will remain Guy, the Earl of Warwick.

Rachel: short and sweet

Sir Edward started his campaign of resistance in August, and has just been rewarded with a letter from the brewery saying no change of name is now planned. Sir Edward says: "This particular crass and vulgar proposal has been shelved. The people of Welling will now be spared the indignity of going to the Ferret and Trouser-leg merely because they wish to enjoy an innocent pint." The threat of half-litres remains.

Helping hand

NEW YORK'S early morning commuters had a rare treat recently, courtesy of the Manhattan refuse collection services and Honor Fraser, model and the best thing to come out of Scotland since shortbread. The incident occurred when Miss Fraser was shooting a promotional video for Tuesday's launch of the 1997 Pirelli calendar, one of the less tiresome events for the male diarist.

She was strolling down the street when a refuse truck dumped its load right in front of her. Without a moment's hesitation, Miss Fraser bent down and began helping the dustman clean up, hurling the bags into the hopper. "All the other models turned pale," said the video's director. Miss Fraser's grandfather was, after all, Lord Lovat, D-Day hero and legendary laird.

Honouring Pirelli

P·H·S

BOMB SCARE

Labour can turn Tory tax attacks to its advantage

Like First World War generals, the Conservative leadership believes in heavy preliminary bombardment before battle is formally joined. The deployment of the "tax bombshell" barrage against Labour fully six months before the Government's preferred election date is intended to damage the reputation for fiscal prudence cultivated by Gordon Brown. The Conservatives' attack has been eclipsed by the suggestion that they have been maladroit in seeking to enlist the authority of the Cabinet Secretary for their *analysis of Labour's* spending pledges. In the short term, the confusion has blunted the thrust of a Tory assault on a front where Labour is still vulnerable. In the long term, however, by attacking in such detail and so early, by using bombardment rather than blitzkrieg, the Tories may actually, like the Great War generals, be giving their opponents time to strengthen their defences.

New Labour protests it will not embark on a tax and spend programme. Indeed Gordon Brown has dared to present himself as, if anything, even tighter with the *chequebook than Kenneth Clarke. But Mr* Brown's party still flirtatiously hints to the electorate that certain spending "aspirations" will be indulged. The Shadow Chancellor has, himself, been rigorous in his insistence that every explicit spending commitment be matched by an equivalent expenditure cut or funded out of already-announced tax changes. His plans to deal with youth unemployment are predicated on income from a windfall tax on the privatised utilities. Proposals to reduce class sizes will be paid for with money it is hoped will be released *by the abolition of the* Assisted Places Scheme. Other Labour positions have, however, not been so cautiously circumscribed.

The Tory dossier published yesterday lists a series of pronouncements which, while falling short of absolute commitments, are intended to give the impression of open-handedness in office. With plans to give London its own authority, to set up a network of women's refuges and to change benefit rules to make it easier for the unemployed to study, Labour has policies which may have attractions but also carry price tags. Mr Brown may argue that no policies should be considered commitments until they appear in the manifesto but his colleagues cannot resist tantalising the voters. The Tories are right to argue Labour is playing the coquette even as it straps on the chastity belt. But then the Conservatives are not wholly virtuous either.

It is mischievous to set a figure of £3,700 million as the cost to the taxpayer of a minimum wage when Labour have said they will not set its level until after consulting with employers and workers. Yet the Tories are performing a public service by attempting to draw attention to the potential impact of some of Labour's policies. Mr Brown and his colleagues will now be under greater pressure to explain which kites they have flown are to become commitments they will honour.

Given the unhappy history of Shadow Budgets it is understandable that Gordon Brown should want to take as much time as possible to refine his proposed new tax regime before unveiling it. He should, however, show his hand as quickly as possible after next week's Budget. If he is to win the argument for change he cannot leave matters too late. Voters must be persuaded that any increase at the upper end of income tax will not damage incentives and even depress revenues. It is not enough for Labour to dismiss Tory assumptions as "lies", if the Opposition are to overcome the *history of past mistrust they must* take the public more fully into their trust.

MADNESS IN MINSK

Belarus deserves better than Lukashenko

Of all the former Soviet republics, none has a more dismal post-Soviet history than Belarus. From the moment it reluctantly declared independence, this featureless land between Poland and Russia has floundered in its search for a new identity and a new political and economic system. After half-hearted and ineffective attempts at economic reform, *the country was already falling* far behind other former communist countries when it elected Aleksandr Lukashenko as President in 1994. Since then its slide has been precipitous. The former communist collective farm chairman, a populist demagogue, has made no secret of his determination to take Belarus back to a Soviet-style past: controlled prices, one-party leadership, a censored press and repression of democrats, independent thinkers and all human rights campaigners.

Mr Lukashenko has largely had his own way in turning *Belarus back into a classic* Soviet republic. Never hesitating to use the thugs of the former local KGB to intimidate his opponents, he has muzzled the press, closed radio stations, halted privatisation, ordered the arrest of political enemies, ignored parliament and denounced democratic elections. Belarus has discarded its post-independence symbols, banned independent trade unions, embraced the cause of reunion with Russia, and saluted the armed forces who shot down two American air balloon pilots taking part in a race last year. Most alarmingly, *he is now threatening* to hold on to the former Soviet republic's nuclear weapons as a way of forcing Nato to abandon its plans for enlargement.

Yet still Mr Lukashenko hankers for more authority. He has called a referendum on Sunday on whether he should be granted the kind of enabling powers that Hitler demanded a month after coming to power in 1933. He wants voters to approve a two-year extension to his mandate, further restrictions on the press and political opponents and the authority to make decisions unchecked by any other organ of power.

Cowed opponents and a generally docile *population have had enough: this* week they have taken to the streets, risking a severe beating from the police. The Prime Minister has resigned, and Semyon Sharetsky, the speaker of the parliament and main opposition leader, has demanded the referendum be scrapped. Western governments have protested strongly, but have little leverage: Western aid has dwindled to a trickle. Mr Lukashenko listens to no one but those in the Kremlin with whom he would like to reunite his country.

The Russians were at first flattered by the *obsequious flattery from Minsk and* were willing to turn a blind eye to the squalid regime in their back yard. But reformers are increasingly worried that re-integration, especially any renewed monetary union with a country politically and economically out of control, would drag Russia down. Mr Yeltsin's own tolerance of Mr Lukashenko dwindled after his overt support for Mr Yeltsin's communist opponent in June. Now the Russians are urging both sides in Minsk to avoid confrontation and attend peace talks in Smolensk. Typically, Mr *Lukashenko has refused*. His paranoia, daily fed by aides reporting on his opponents, brings a bloody showdown nearer. The West can do little; but Moscow must now cast adrift this petty would-be dictator who threatens complete ruin for his beleaguered country.

CITIZEN ARMY

Repeat after me: civis Gallus sum

Citing the good example of the British Army, the French Government recently announced what is perhaps the most sweeping change yet announced by President Jacques Chirac: the abolition of conscription and drastic shrinkage of the French armed forces. Cleaning latrines and drill parades may not have been the most uplifting course of instruction on Gallic republican values for every conscript, but the system at least guaranteed that a high proportion of young French men had some contact with the State and its *raison d'être*. But while putting the army on a diet and reorganising it for the challenges of a new century make good military sense and help cut public expenditure, what *opportunities remain* for the State to mould the outlook of the *citoyens* of the next millennium? Precious few, according to the Gaullists who have been pressing *President Chirac to create six-month* courses in civic instruction.

Unfortunately France is busy trying to cut costs in order to be at the rendez-vous for European *monetary union*. The "citizen rendezvous" to which young French men and women will now be summoned will give birth to a new academic discipline: condensed civics. *The* course of instruction on civic virtue and value mixed with a little careers advice will last just five days.

Quite apart from the dangers that the 12 civic instruction centres will turn into holiday camps, this brief encounter with the glory that is France can hardly do justice to the rich tapestry of French state-building and tradition. Inculcating rights and duties, as numerous voices have argued in Britain over the past few weeks, remains a vital and neglected duty of a society. But how on earth will anyone ever agree on a curriculum lasting a week? The French school system has had enough trouble with issues of spiritual education and dress regulation raised by the several *million Muslims in* France. Will André Malraux, the latest cultural icon to be rescued by the present Government, go in and out of fashion as Gaullists go in and out of the Elysée? Or will the hapless instructors confine themselves to enumerating the up-to-date tariff of penalties for ignoring a traffic light?

What should the citizens of tomorrow be told about the State itself? President Chirac's Prime Minister has reminded France recently of the central importance of the nation state. Yet the Government headed by both men is sauntering gaily towards a single currency which will do more to usurp that State than anything except armed invasion. The French Government is being urged to organise civic education to nurture social stability. President Chirac, in common with politicians as diverse as John Major, Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, seeks to strengthen civic bonds. Yet France promotes supranational government in Europe which weakens the most legitimate and solid form of government currently in existence in Europe, *national government*. This is a paradox which the young citizens of tomorrow might like to take up with their teachers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Safety lessons of the tunnel fire

From Brigadier John Constant

Sir, In 1970, when we were conducting the feasibility study for a fixed link between Britain and France (reports, article, leading article, November 20), we discussed all foreseeable emergencies *with the appropriate authorities* on both sides of the Channel, and every conceivable safety measure was considered in great depth.

Our conclusions for the shuttle service *included closed single-decker* wagons for heavy goods vehicles, as for the double-decker car wagons.

In situations like that on Monday, we envisaged that the train would *keep going for the short period* (approximately 11 minutes in this case) until clear of the tunnel at its far end, when the emergency services would be better able to tackle the fire in the *sealed wagon, and the smoke would* have been contained in it.

Now, it appears that urgent consideration should once more be given to the measures outlined above. I feel sure that their cost would be less than that now likely for the repairs both to the tunnel itself and to Eurotunnel's reputation.

However, it should be remembered that a similar fire in a ship, or on a crowded street, might also prove dangerous, and further consideration must be given to the widespread use and carriage of hazardous materials.

Yours faithfully,
J. CONSTANT (Head of
Channel Tunnel Engineering,
Ministry of Transport, 1968-71),
The River Cottage, Coombe Road,
Dartmouth, South Devon.
November 20.

Monetary union

From Professor Emeritus
Anthony Ralston

Sir, Bernard Connolly ("Kenneth Clarke's Faustian pact", November 8) is probably correct that "a government that is part of a monetary union will have to balance its budget". But the implications of this would be less disastrous than he implies.

Many American states are bound by their state constitutions to balance their budgets every year. Does this make them either more fiscally responsible or more constrained than the federal government which has no such restriction? No, indeed.

There are many "creative" ways to avoid the constraint of a balanced budget. The most commonly used of these in the United States is to sell bonds. Want to build a new road? Sell a transport bond which won't affect the budget until interest and principal have to be repaid. Want to build a new government building? Sell a construction bond, etc.

You can be sure that any British government would find a variety of techniques to get around the restriction of a balanced budget.

Sincerely,
ANTHONY RALSTON
(Academic visitor, Department of
Computing, Imperial College of
Science, Technology and Medicine),
Flat 4, Albert Court,
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7.
November 8.

Architects of history

From Professor Emeritus
Luke Herrmann

Sir, It is good to learn that the Sir John Soane's Museum in London will be able to acquire No 14 Lincoln's Inn Fields, thanks to a timely lottery grant (report, November 15).

The consequent expansion will certainly further its founder's aim to encourage the study of architecture and of architectural history. However, the present curator was wrong in claiming Soane as "the first and greatest professor of architecture in England". There were in fact two earlier professors of architecture at the Royal Academy: Thomas Sandby, from its foundation in 1768 to 1798, and George Dance, from 1798 to 1805. Dance was succeeded by Soane, who was professor from 1806 to 1837.

Soane was definitely not the first professor. Whether he was the greatest is a matter of opinion — the roll-call of his 19th-century successors includes C. R. Cockerell, Sir George Gilbert Scott and George Edmund Street.

Yours faithfully,
LUKE HERRMANN,
The Coombes, Sibbertoft,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire.
November 15.

Two minutes' silence

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, In calling for an end to the Remembrance Day ritual, Mr Les Holley (letter, November 16) says that those who remain do not need silence or ceremony to remember their loved ones.

We *all* remain, Mr Holley, or at least we all remain as we are, thanks *to those past sacrifices*.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL INKLEY,
6 Knot Lane, Walton-le-Dale,
Preston, Lancashire.
November 16.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Britain's pubs and brewers at risk

From the Chairman of the
Independent Family Brewers
of Britain and others

Sir, The future of Britain's local pubs, and of the UK brewers on whom they largely depend, will remain in jeopardy for so long as UK government tax *policy continues to militate against us* and our fellow UK brewers.

For far too long this and preceding governments, in an effort to subsidise cuts on direct taxation, have instituted high increases in indirect taxation on alcohol and other excise goods.

Such a policy discriminates against alcohol, which competes in a fiercely competitive leisure market: we pay VAT on most products, but on alcohol we pay VAT on top of excise.

Ever since Britain signed up to the Treaty of Rome in 1973 member governments have been obliged to work towards fiscal harmony; but successive administrations have pursued conflicting strategies, and the advent of the Single Market in 1993, encouraging a huge trade (both legal and illegal) in cross-border shopping, was a disaster for pubs and breweries.

Increasing excise duty over a period of time has inevitably increased the *divergence with our European partners*. The Single Market demands a single fiscal policy and a uniform excise rate.

As representatives of the 38 members of the Independent Family Brewers of Britain we believe it is the duty of Government to protect and promote our long-established industry, and that this domestic issue must now be brought to the attention of Brussels.

Tomorrow, therefore, we will deliver a petition to Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, MEP, a vice-president of the European Parliament, asking for the European Commission to take into account the wide differences in excise duty between EU member states on alcoholic beverages in general, and beer in particular.

Our petition will spell out our conviction that these differences distort competition, encourage fraud and criminal activity, result in loss of revenue to Governments, and cause loss of jobs in vulnerable regions.

We are also convinced that the need for a move towards both fiscal harmony and excise harmony should be brought to the attention of the European Finance Ministers at their biannual meeting in December.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. F. FULLER,
Chairman, Independent
Family Brewers of Britain,
C. M. BRAIN,
S. A. Brain & Co Ltd,
R. A. S. EVERARD,
Everards Brewery Ltd,
R. W. D. HANSON,
Hardys & Hansons plc,
R. H. B. NEAME,
Shepherd Neame Ltd,
CHRISTOPHER POPE,
Eldridge Pope & Co plc.
P. B. ROBINSON,
Frederic Robinson Ltd,
JOHN WELLS,
Charles Wells Ltd,
JOHN YOUNG,
Young & Co's Brewery plc,
c/o Fuller, Smith & Turner plc,
Griffin Brewery,
Chiswick, W4.
November 20.

Astrology and belief

From the Suffragan Bishop of Repton

Sir, Nigella Lawson, in "Astrology and the need to believe" (November 13) has surely committed a philosophical solecism.

The answer to the question whether the Universe originated by accident or by design is that we don't know. Belief in God and atheism are both irrational, in the sense that they are beyond reason: both positions require a leap of faith. Astrology, however, is irrational in the sense that it is unscientific.

Yours faithfully,
†HENRY REPTON,
The Diocese of Derby,
Repton House,
Lea, Matlock, Derbyshire.

From the Bishop of Rochester

Sir, I am grateful to Nigella Lawson for her sympathetic review of our report, *The Search for Faith & Witness for the Church*. She is wrong, however, about the relation between faith *and reason*.

Christians have always held that revelation and reason belong together. Reason leads us to a knowledge of God through awareness of the natural *world (including our own nature as* self-conscious beings). Revelation leads to a knowledge of God as personal, loving and suffering.

Credo ut intelligam (I believe so that I may understand) has ever been the motto of the Church.

Yours faithfully,
†MICHAEL ROFFEN:,
Bishopscourt, Rochester, Kent.
November 14.

From Mr Lloyd Caldwell

Sir, Nigella Lawson condemns astrology because it is an offence against science. A pity, then, that her own science is somewhat lacking.

"And since the obstetrician or midwife exerts 60,000 times more gravitational force on the baby being born than the nearest planet . . . ", she writes. My own calculations show, by contrast, that our moon (the nearest "planet" in the terminology of astrologers) exerts about 6,500 times more gravitational force than would a 12-stone midwife at a distance of one metre.

More to the point, how many astrologers assert that the significance of a planet for human life is a consequence of its gravitational attraction? Few, if any.

Yours faithfully,
LLOYD CALDWELL,
44 Byron Avenue,
Camberley, Surrey.
November 14.

From Mr T. J. Smith

Sir, Nigella Lawson has written an enjoyable and well reasoned essay on why we believe — but with one important fault in the logic.

Faith is not the opposite of reason (or science). Else there would be no scientists who believe in God. As it happens, millions do. Faith is the opposite of doubt, not reason. After all, we all have good reason for our faith.

Yours,
T. J. SMITH (engineer),
5 Raymond Avenue,
South Woodford, E18.
November 13.

Daycare for children

From Dr Gillian Pugh

Sir, Allan Levy, QC (Law, November 12), reviews the first five years of the Children Act and concludes, having focused on children in court proceedings, that the Act is, in the main, a success.

One aspect of the Act he was not *able to mention concerns daycare for* young children under the age of eight: these children, in playgroups, nurseries and with childminders, are a far larger group than any other to be af*fected by the Act*.

The original guidance in the Act on standards of daycare was widely welcomed by the childcare community. Yet, as the Government has attempted to stimulate the growth of daycare to enable parents, mainly mothers, to return to the labour market, standards have been diluted.

In the current moral debate, which has included questions about the care and education of young children, public disquiet about the effect of early nursery care is understandable. Re*peated research has shown, however*, that there are no ill effects, and many benefits, of nursery care, provided standards are high.

As Government develops its policy on childcare, employment and family life, we urge it to make a positive political commitment to the Children Act and to high-quality daycare provision for young children as a support to parents and family life.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN PUGH
(Director, Early Childhood Unit),
National Children's Bureau,
8 Wakley Street, EC1.
November 14.

Church freehold

From the Vicar of Kesgrave

Sir, Whenever some short-term difficulty arises over clerical conduct, as at Lincoln, it is not long before someone suggests (the Reverend Andrew de Berry's letter, November 11) that the freehold be "swept aside".

The Anglican ethos of a "middle way" would be quickly lost if the clergy, whether in cathedrals or in parish life, had to depend for their position essentially on the permission of their bishops or their congregations. The freehold has enabled individual clergy to sustain a faithful ministry of service when facing hostility in the *Church or from elsewhere*.

As Mr de Berry himself says, the Church's new logo and councils are likely to create only "a semblance of modernity". Knocking down the freehold would be part of that same exercise.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HARES,
The Vicarage,
Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk.
November 11.

What's in a name?

From Mrs Clare Blight

Sir, Tim Wilson (letter, November 14) is despondent that his name affords him no literary distinction.

Had he adopted the surname of his spouse — as I carelessly did upon marriage — he might be making a dif*ferent complaint*.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE BLIGHT,
The Barn, Church Lane,
Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon.
November 14.

From Mr Jonathan Rice

Sir, Dr Wilson has my sympathy. All I have to do to get a letter printed in your columns is to wait for a cereal crop failure in the Far East.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN RICE,
47 Brockhill Road,
Hythe, Kent.
November 15.

Business letters, page 31

Charges policy at British Museum

From Sir Robert Sainsbury

Sir, As Chairman of Trustees of the Tate Gallery in 1973 I lost a battle with the then Prime Minister, Edward Heath, regarding the imposition of an entrance charge and, on January 2, 1974 *(I was no longer a trustee)*, a charge was announced, operational from three months later. However, when the Government fell, one of the first acts of the incoming Labour Gov*ernment was to restore free entry*.

I am now deeply saddened to learn ("The high cost of staying free", Arts, November 6) that unless the annual grant to the British Museum for run*ning costs is increased*, the Trustees will have to impose an entrance charge. Put another way, the Government has decided upon an entrance charge for the British Museum but is leaving the Trustees to take responsibility in the eyes of the public.

Ever since the British Museum opened its doors in 1759, admission has been free and a very large number of people of all ages and many nationalities have found this accessibility to be a wonderful benefit. The museum is a great educational resource and surely this role must be maintained and encouraged.

It has been shown that entrance charges appreciably reduce visitors. The British Museum is probably the greatest museum of its kind in the world, with more visitors than either the Louvre in Paris or the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We must take pride in this and do everything in our power to maintain that enviable position.

Given recent correspondence in your columns (November 8, 13, 14) concerning colossal expenditure on *millennium celebrations, perhaps free* access to the British Museum is one way the Government could, relatively cheaply, enrich life in Britain in the next millennium.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SAINSBURY,
Stamford House,
Stamford Street, SE1.

From Professor Deanna Petherbridge

Sir, Government cuts in grant-in-aid to the British Museum will have a disastrous effect on an already overstretched institution. I'm thinking particularly of the Prints and Drawings Department, which is the envy of similar departments across the world for its generous access and exhibiting policies and the service it offers to scholars, student groups and visitors.

This service depends on expertise from dedicated people who are already working beyond normal hours in staffing the study room, preparing prints and drawings for loans, constructing in-house and touring exhibitions and also writing invaluable scholarly texts.

The Prime Minister said in 1994 that money raised by the lottery would not replace existing government spending. With so much money for *capital building programmes, what* can be the justification for punitive cuts to the running costs of this unique institution, which will anyway be losing considerable revenue when the *British Library departs next year?*

Yours faithfully,
D. PETHERBRIDGE
(Professor of Drawing),
Royal College of Art,
Kensington Gore, SW7.

A seat in Surrey

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, Whether or not the Stone of Scone, returned to Scotland with such Pythonesque solemnity last week (report, November 16), was the original one is an arguable point.

However, many may not be aware that there is a Coronation Stone of England standing next to the Guildhall in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, on which seven Saxon kings of England are said to have been crowned, the last being Ethelred the Unready on April 14, 979. It is beside the Clattern Bridge across the Hogsmill River, a tributary of the Thames, and thousands of people unheedingly walk or drive past it each day.

If the Stone of Scone had been left where it was in the first place, more than 700 years ago, it might now be receiving the same scant attention that is the lot of the Coronation Stone of Kingston and England.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

Cheek to cheek

From Mr Richard Asser

Sir, In 1952 the old Scala cinema in Walton Street, Oxford, was packed for a showing of *Les Enfants du Paradis*. My companion, an undergraduate at St Hilda's, and I were shown to one of the twin seats (letter, November 18) that were a feature of the establish*ment*.

At a moment of high drama on the screen, the cast-iron side of our seat fell off, depositing us both in the aisle. We were just good friends, but the outraged looks of nearby patrons assumed otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ASSER,
Tadmarton Manor,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.
November 19.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 20: The Governor-General of St Vincent and the Grenadines and Lady Antrobus were received by The Queen.

His Excellency Monsieur Dah Ould Abdi was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Court of St James's.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen received the Bishop of Chester (the Right Reverend Peter Forster) who did homage upon his appointment.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President of the Council) administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Derby (Clerk of the Closet) was in attendance.

The Queen, Patron, this evening attended the Royal Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and was received by the Chairman of the Royal Concert Committee (Sir John Tooley) and the Chairman of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund (Mr Philip Jones).

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the 1996 Royal Yacht Officers' Reunion Dinner at Gibson Hall, Bishopsgate, London EC2.

The Earl of Courtown (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the Departure of The President of the Republic of Kenya and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

November 20: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new headquarters of North of Scotland Water Authority, Beechwood Business Park, Inshes, Inverness, and was received by the Lord Gray of Contin (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Inverness-shire).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Teanassie School, Beauly, Inverness-shire.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 20: The Prince of Wales this morning joined members of the Board of the Environment Agency on a visit to Devonport Dockyard, Plymouth, Devon.

His Royal Highness, Duke of Cornwall, this afternoon visited Princetown Brewery, Princetown Primary School and Merrivale Quarry, Princetown, Devon.

The Prince of Wales this evening opened "the Discerning Eye Exhibition" at the Mall Galleries, London SW1.

His Royal Highness later held a Meeting and Dinner at St James's Palace to discuss developments in integrated healthcare.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 20: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, Pottery and Glass Trades' Benevolent Institution, was present this evening at a Reception given by the Institution at the Painters' Hall, London, EC4.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 20: The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Hampshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

Her Royal Highness opened Melbury Lodge at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Romsey Road, Winchester, and afterwards as Patron, the Enham Trust, opened Phases I and II of Cedar Park, Enham Alamein, near Andover.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 20: The Duke of Kent this morning called on Mr Yukihiko Ikeda, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon attended lunch given by the British Chamber of Commerce, at the Capitol Tokyu Hotel, Tokyo.

The Duke of Kent this afternoon had an audience with Their Imperial Majesties The Emperor and Empress of Japan, at the Imperial Palace, Tokyo, Japan.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Westbourne Centre, Westbourne Road, Bedford, at 11.20; and will open the Cygnet Wing at Bedford Hospital at 2.45.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit Harrowden Middle School, Bedford, at 11.55; will visit the Corn Exchange at 12.45; and will open the new brigade communications centre at County Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Kempston, at 3.35.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Bedford Sports and Hockey Club at 11.20; and E.F. Taylor's at 2.50.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; and, as President of Business in the Community and The Prince's Trust, will attend the launch of Gifts in Kind UK at St James's Palace at 2.00.

The Prince Edward, as Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, will attend a dinner at the Savoy Hotel at 7.45.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of NABC - Clubs for Young People, will visit clubs in Bristol.

Lord Gladwyn

A Memorial Service for Lord Gladwyn will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Tuesday, January 21, 1997. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets, for this service only, to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 21, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Mr Barry Porter, MP

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Barry Porter, MP, will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Thursday, December 12. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets, for this service only, to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 12, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from December 1.

Birthdays today

Mr Coningsby Allday, chemical engineer, 41; Miss Beryl Bainbridge, writer, 62; Mrs Georgina Battiscombe, author, 91; Earl Beatty, 50; Mr Roy Boulting, film producer, 83; Miss Tina Brown, Editor, *New Yorker*, 43; Mr J.D. Bullmore, a director, WPP Group, 67; Miss Amelia Freedman, founder, Nash Ensemble, 56; Mr Nickolas Grace, actor, 49; Dr Michael Grant, classical historian, 82; Miss Goldie Hawn, actress, 51; Sir Stanley Kalms, founder, Dixons Group, 65; Mr Jacques Laffite, racing driver, 53; Mr Peter Liddle, racehorse trainer, 60; Miss Natalia Makarova, ballerina, 56; Mr Tim Robinson, cricketer, 38; Mr Peter Sharpe, Chief Constable, Hertfordshire, 52; Sir William Stuttaford, former president, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 66; Mr Malcolm Williamson, Master of The Queen's Music, 65; Viscount Younger of Leckie, 90.

Memorial service

Mr Stephen Desch, QC
A memorial service for Mr Stephen Desch, QC, was held yesterday in the Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated and the Very Rev Michael Till, Dean of Winchester, read the lesson. Mr Richard Little, brother-in-law, Mrs Phillida Goad and Judge David Webster, QC, gave readings. Mrs Julia Desch, widow, sang the introit. Mr Antony Edwards-Stuart, QC, gave an address. Members of the family, members of 2 Crown Office Row Chambers, members of Gray's Inn and many other friends were present.

Buckingham Palace luncheon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday held a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace. The guests were:

Judge Ann Goddard, QC, (circuit judge), Mrs Zahida Manzoor (deputy chairman, Commission for Racial Equality), Mr Stephen Lander (director general, Security Service), Mr Geoffrey Parker, (chairman, Teacher Training Agency), Mr David Rowland (chairman, Lloyd's of London), Mr Doug Smith (director, Inland Revenue Self Assessment Programme), Mr Anthony Watson (Editor, *The Yorkshire Post*) and Mr Richard Wilson (Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Home Office).

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the President of Kenya.

Mid Atlantic Club
Mrs Edwina Currie, MP, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid Atlantic Club held yesterday at the English-Speaking Union. Dr Walter Lessing presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Voltaire, philosopher, man of letters, scientist, Paris, 1694; Samuel Cunard, shipowner, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1787; Sir Leslie Ward (Spy), caricaturist, London, 1851; Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, man of letters, Bodmin, 1863; Arthur "Harpo" Marx, actor and comedian, New York, 1888; René Magritte, Surrealist painter, Lessines, Belgium, 1898; Coleman Hawkins, jazz musician, St Joseph, Missouri, 1904.

DEATHS: Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange, London, 1579; Henry Purcell, composer, London, 1695; James Barry Hertzog, Prime Minister of South Africa 1924-39, Pretoria, 1942.

The first free flight in a balloon was made, Paris, 1783.

North Carolina became the 12th state of the Union, 1789.

Thomas Hancock patented vulcanised rubber, 1843.

Service dinner

9th/12th Royal Lancers
Brigadier H.W.K. Pye, Colonel of 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) Regiment, presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Forces appointments

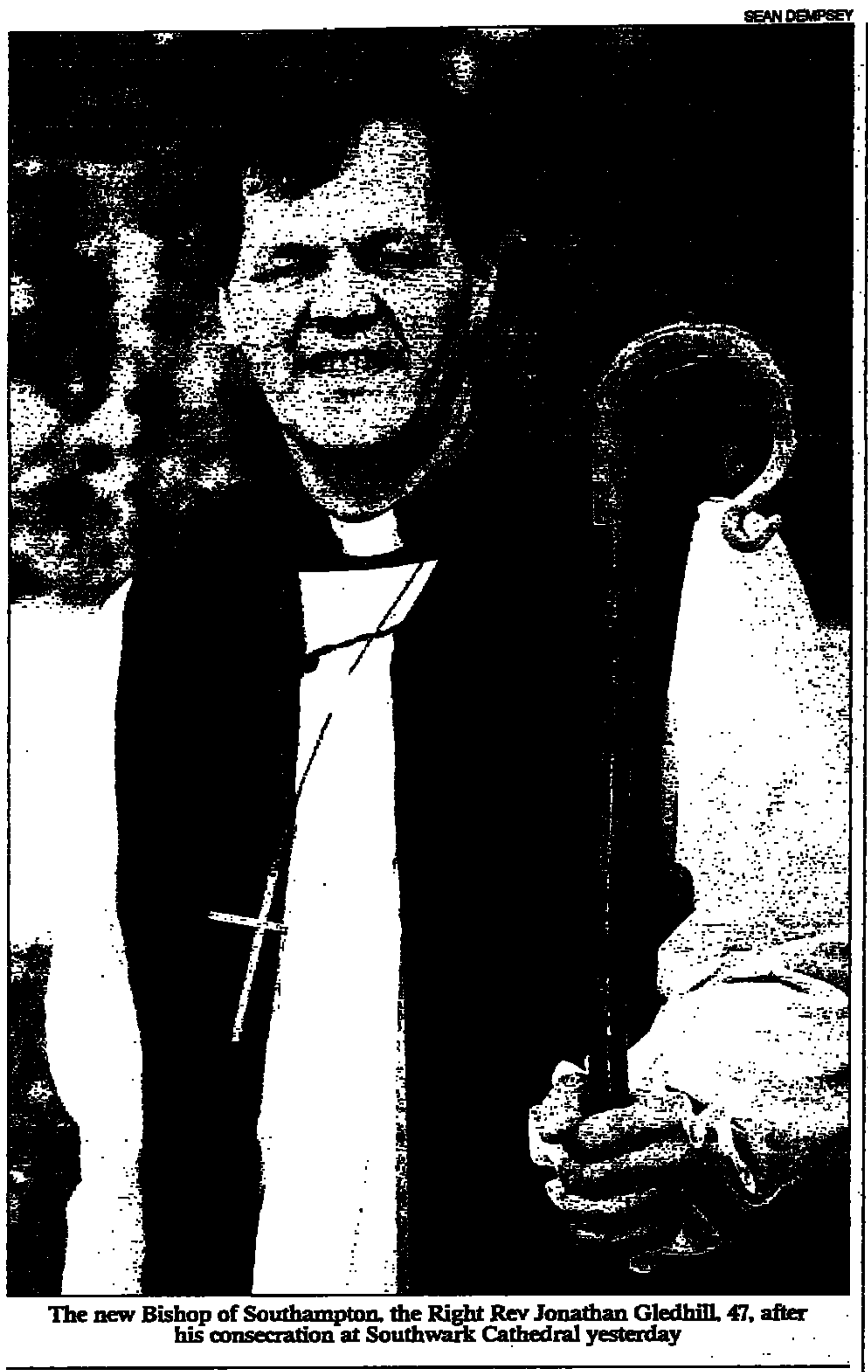
MAJOR-GENERAL: Brigadier A. G. Denaro to be Chief Combat Support ACE Rapid Reaction Corps in the rank of Major-General, October 21.

COLONEL: S.L. Bennett to be Director HQ BVO, October 21; A.W. Blackett to be DA/MA Kathmandu, October 26.

Guardians of Bristol

Mr Roger Heaman has been installed Master of the Guild of Guardians of the City of Bristol.

SEAN DEMPSEY



The new Bishop of Southampton, the Right Rev Jonathan Gledhill, 47, after his consecration at Southwark Cathedral yesterday

Dinners

Royal Yachts
The Duke of Edinburgh last night attended a dinner held at Gibson Hall, Bishopsgate, for officers who have served in the Royal Yachts. Commodore A.J.C. Morrow, RN, Commodore Royal Yachts, presided. Among others present were:
Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley, Admirals Sir Brian Brown and Sir Jock Slater, Vice-Admirals Sir Philip Watson, Sir Cameron Rusby, Sir James Weatherall, the Hon Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton and M A C Moor, Rear-Admirals Sir Richard Trowbridge, Sir Paul Greening, Sir John Garnier, Sir Robert Woodard, J H Adams, T M Bevan, J P Evans, P P M Franklyn, A A Lockyer, J H S McAnally, P B Rowe, J T Saunders, D R Sherval and K A Snow, Surgeon Rear-Admiral David Lammiman and Surgeon Captain Professor Sir Norman Blacklock.

Bermuda Society
Dr David Saul, Premier of Bermuda, was the principal speaker at the tenth annual dinner of the Bermuda Society held yesterday at Merchant Taylors' Hall. Viscount Dunrossil, chairman, presided.

Anglo-Spanish Society
The Spanish Ambassador, President of the Anglo-Spanish Society, accompanied by Señora de Aza, presided at a dinner held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Sir Robert Wade-Gery, chairman, received the guests. Mr Felipe Fernandez-Armesto was the guest speaker.

During the dinner the Ambassador presented the Santa Cruz Prize to Mr Jimmy Burns for the best contribution to the society's journal. Others present included:
Marquess de Aunon, Sir Ronald and Lady Lindsay of Dowhill, Sir Robin and Lady Fearn, Lady Parker and Lady Wade-Gery.

Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the annual livery dinner of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Company held yesterday at Goldsmiths' Hall. Mr Richard Vanderpump, Master, assisted by the Wardens, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr Nigel Nichols, Warden, and Sir Barry Sheen were the speakers. The Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, the Masters of the Broderers', Loriners', Glass-Sellers' and Tobacco Pipe Makers' and Tobacco Blenders' Companies, the Director-General of Logistic Support, and the Commander and Defence Adviser to the Canadian High Commissioner were among the guests.

Past Overseers Society of St Margaret & St John Westminster
The Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Dean of Westminster were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Past Overseers Society of St Margaret & St John Westminster. Mr J.L.C. Dribbell, vice-chairman of the society, presided. Dr C.E. Evans also spoke.

Inner Temple
The Treasurer, Mr Edward Nugee, QC, and Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple entertained the following guests at dinner in hall last night, it being the Grand Day of Michaelmas Term:
The High Commissioner for New Zealand, Viscount Ridley, KG, Viscountess Brentford, the Bishop of London, Lady Mackay of Clashfern, Lady Eames, Lord Bramall, KG, Lord Wilberforce, Lord Templeman, Lord Brightman, Marshal of the RAF Lord Craig of Radley, Lord Justice Peter Gibson (treasurer, Lincoln's Inn), Lady Staughton, Sir Michael Colman, Sir Denis Thatcher and Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, General Sir Martin Farndale, Sir Bryan Cartledge, Sir Peter Crill, Sir Irvine Goulding, Sir Roger Bannister, Sir Anthony Caro, Sir David Lees, Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, (treasurer, Gray's Inn), Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, (treasurer, Middle Temple), Mrs Rachel Nugee, Mr David Rae Smith, Mrs Joyce Rose, Mr Dennis Silk, Mr Edward Dexter, Mr Richard Morgan, Mr Ian Watt, Mrs Barbara Paul Robinson, Mr Michael Melluish, Mr John Nugee, Mr Andrew Nugee and Brigadier Peter Little, (sub-treasurer).

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Mr Geoffrey Ashworth presided at the annual dinner of the quantity surveyors' division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Geoffrey Wright and Mr Tony Blackler were the speakers.

Queen Mary and Westfield College
Professor Graham Zellick, Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University, and Sir Christopher France, chairman of council, presided at a guest night held yesterday at the college. Among others present were:
Lord Justice Millett, Sir Robert Jennings, QC, Professor Sir Michael Thompson, Mr John Howe, Dr Anthony Julius, Mr Simon Keswick, M Olivier Poivre D'Arvor, Dr Michael Scholar, the Headmaster, Bancroft's School, Major-General T.P. Toyne Sewell and Mr Stanley Wright (college treasurer).

Royal Society
Professor John Rowlinson, Physical Secretary to the Royal Society, presided at a Royal Society Technology lecture delivered by Dr Michael Bagshaw, Head of Aviation Medical Services, British Airways, last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace. The Chief Medical Officer of the Civil Aviation Authority, the Director of General Medical Services, RAF, the Director of Health Services, British Airways and the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents, Air Accident Investigation branch, were present at a dinner held afterwards.

Eton dinner

The Rev R.D.F. Wild's
The Rev R.D.F. Wild's old boys held a dinner last night at Boodle's. Mr Wild, who died a year ago, was remembered as a toast to *M'tutor's* was drunk.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Aran Iglesia and Miss S.J. Newell
The engagement is announced between Alfredo, son of Mr and Mrs Francisco Aran Lopez, of Madrid, Spain, and Susannah Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Newell, of Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.D. Birchall and Miss S.J.D. Cross
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Birchall, of Wandsworth, and Sarah, daughter of the Rev John and Mrs Cross, of Kingston upon Thames.

Mr S.A. Brewer and Miss K.J. Porter
The engagement is announced between Simon Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs John Brewer, of Salcombe, Devon, and Kathryn Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Porter, of Dousland, Devon.

Mr J.O. Ingvaldson and Miss R.A. Jackson
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Ingvaldson, of Vancouver, Canada, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stuart Jackson, of Castle Cary, Somerset.

Mr W.B. Ramsay and Miss N.A. de Chair
The engagement is announced between William, son of Major General Charles and the Hon Mrs Ramsay, of Bughtrig, Berwickshire, and Natasha, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Dudley de Chair, of Tulloch, Inverness-shire, and Mrs Edward Harding-Newman.

Mr J.P.R. Wilcox and Miss A. Guglielmotti
The engagement is announced between James Peregrine Rundle, eldest son of Mr David Wilcox, of Philleigh, Cornwall, and Mrs Martin Trowell, of West Hanney, Oxfordshire, and Alessandra, daughter of the late Signor Giuseppe Guglielmotti and of Signora Elina Cosentino, of Naples, Italy.

Mr J.H.C. Hinds and Miss H.V. Mills
The engagement is announced between James, second son of Major and Mrs Richard Hinds, of Sevenoaks, and Henrietta, youngest daughter of the late Peter Mills and of Mrs Mills, of Liphook.

Mr J.F. Lithgow and Miss C.F. du Cane Wilkinson
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Sir William and Lady Lithgow, of Ormsary, Argyll, and Claire, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas du Cane Wilkinson, of Croy, Inverness.

Mr A.G.P. Parsons and Miss J.F. Ross
The engagement is announced between Adam, twin son of Mr and Mrs Norman Parsons, of Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, and Jessica, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Ross, of North Ascot, Berkshire.

Mr S.R. Tarver and Miss D.H. Miller
The engagement is announced between Simon Ransom, younger son of Colonel and Mrs M.R. Tarver, of Petworth, West Sussex, and Deborah Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.D.F. Miller, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Marriages

Mr P.D. Jenner and Miss J.A.D. Hargreaves
The marriage took place on October 4, 1996, between Mr Paul D. Jenner, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Jenner, of Croydon, and Miss Jill Alison D. Hargreaves, eldest daughter of the late H.G. Hargreaves and of Mrs R.C. Hargreaves, of Toys Hill, Kent.

Mr I.S. Steers and Mrs J.M. Campbell
The marriage took place quietly in London, on Monday, November 18, 1996, of Ian Sydney Steers to Jean Margaret Campbell.

Gruesome pursuit digs up top prize

A MORBID taste for bones has made John Hunter the Archaeologist of the Year, the major prize at the British Archaeological Awards ceremony in Cardiff this week (Norman Hammond writes). The award was given for Professor Hunter's work in developing forensic archaeology in Britain.

This gruesome branch of a profession dedicated to digging up bones and other people's dustbins, deals with the recently dead. Professor Hunter, head of archaeology at Birmingham University, has argued for the use of the delicate techniques of archaeological investigation to be applied to such cases as the Gloucester murders, instead of the more robust pick-and-shovel approach often employed by the police.

Among the other biennial awards, which were presented by Magnus Magnusson, the search for Boxgrove Man won the £1,000 ICI Award for the best major project. Phil Bennet's Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort project won twice, a Heritage in Britain Award for securing long-term preservation, and the Virgin Group prize of £1,000 for the best public presentation of a site.

The Archaeology Book of the Year was Jean Wilson's *The Archaeology of Shakespeare*, a study of the Elizabethan Theatre and its remains, such as the Rose and Globe playhouses. ITV's Time Team took the Broadcast Award given by Channel 4, for its programme on the Tockenham site.

Two young archaeologists, Alice Bennet and Susan Westlake, were honoured for their posters promoting archaeology, and three journalists, including Edward Owen of *The Times*, received Press Awards from British Gas-Transco for outstanding reporting.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill to be Master Gunner, St James's Park, from today on the retirement of General Sir Martin Farndale.

Mr Richard George Bramwell McCombe, QC, to be Attorney-General of the Duchy of Lancaster and Attorney and Serjeant within the County Palatine of Lancaster in succession to Mr Justice Timothy Lloyd.

Sir Anthony Tennant to be chairman of the Royal Academy Trust in succession to Mr John Raisman, who retires on December 6. Sir Trevor Chinn to be deputy chairman.

Mr Nigel Crisp, chief executive of the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust, to be regional director of the NHS Executive for the South Thames Region from the new year.

Lady Juliet de Chair and Dr David Landau to be trustees of the National Gallery.

Mrs Margaret Bloom to be director of competition policy, Office of Fair Trading, from January 1 in succession to Dr Martin Howe, who is retiring.

University news

Cambridge
Selwyn College
Elected into a Fellowship: Graham Peter Cook

European Business School
Lord Swaythling, Chairman of Rothmans International, is to be made an honorary professor of the European Business School.

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Acknowledge that the Lord is God; he made us and we are his, his own people, the flock which he shepherds. Psalm 100 : 3

BIRTHS

HARTLEY - On 15th November in Kuala Lumpur, to Anne Buckingham and Christopher Hartley, a daughter, Samantha Jade Buckingham.

HENRIET - On 15th November 1996, to Allison (née Thompson) and Edward, a son, James Peter, a brother to Rebecca.

JEWSBURY - On 13th November 1996 at Queen Mary's Roehampton, to Gail (née Monks) and Mark, a son Robert Christopher Charles.

MAYER - On October 21st, to Valerie and Anton-Paul, a beautiful daughter, Sophia Alexandra.

MAYO - To Charles and The Hon. Arabella Mayo, a daughter, Elizabeth Rose Anne, on 10th November.

MOORE - On November 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Pauline (née Mansfield) and John, a son, Jack MacLeod.

SLATER - On November 17th at The Portland Hospital to Katie (née Menzies) and Simon - a daughter, Flora Clementine.

TOVEY - On 13th November, to Juliet and Gareth, a daughter, Isabelle Lucie.

WANA - On 16th November 1996, to Diana (née Gluckstein) and Alain, a son, Benjamin Henri.

DEATHS

BANCROFT - On 19th November 1996 Lord Ian Powell GCB, after a long fight, beloved husband, father and grandfather. Private family service. Memorial Service at a later date. Donations please to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 0RN.

BLACKFORD - Sheila peacefully at Pembury Hospital on 18th November 1996 aged 76 years. Beloved wife of Peter and mother of Tim, Chris, Jeremy and Patrick and much loved grandmother. Funeral Service at Plaxtol Parish Church on Tuesday 26th November 1996 at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Plaxtol Church or RSPCA c/o Viner & Sons Ltd., 54 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LU, tel: (01732) 842485.

BURGESS - Barbara Watford (née Smith, formerly of Leeds) died 19th November 1996, aged 72. Much loved wife of Arthur, mother of Susan and Hilary and grandmother of Rosa and Joseph. Funeral Service at St John's Digswell, (Welwyn Garden City) on Tuesday 26th November at 1.30 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, please, donations for the Isabel Hospice may be sent c/o Geo. W. Blow & Sons, Church Street, Welwyn, tel: (01438) 714686.

CAMPBELL - Alexander Colin Patton, Emeritus Professor, University of Manchester, on November 19th peacefully at home after a long illness. Dearly loved by his wife Elisabeth and his family. Funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Ascott under Wychwood, 2 pm Tuesday November 26th. Family flowers only.

CHRISTOPHER - Barbara (née de Selincourt) died peacefully on November 19th aged 88 years. Wife of the late Jack Christopher. Much loved by her sons Bryan and Robin and their wives Claudia and Merril. Adored Granny of Julian, Tracy, Simon, Jason, Chloe and Livvy, Great-Granny of Benjamin and infinitely dear to her many friends. Funeral on Monday 25th November at 11.30 am at the Kent & Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to League of Friends, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead or Guide Dogs for the Blind. Enquiries to Medhurst Funeral Directors (01892) 770253.

COOK - Nancy, on November 18th, peacefully at home at Radbourne, Derbyshire, a week before her 82nd birthday. Dear wife of the late Toby Cook. Greatly loved by her children, Jane, Barbara and Guy, her grandchildren, family and friends. Funeral at Radbourne Parish Church at 2 pm on Tuesday, 26th November. Simple flowers or donations, if preferred, to the British Red Cross. Enquiries to W. Jones and Son, Brailsford, Derbys. Tel: (01335) 360319.

GANDY - On Sunday November 17th, suddenly but peacefully at home, John. Dearly loved husband of Jill, father of Carola and William, and grandfather (Farf) of seven. Funeral private. Details of a celebration later.

GREGSON - Babs peacefully at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on November 19th. Loved mother of Stephen and M.J. We remember the good times at Finborough Road and the even better times at Ormonde Gate.

HUTCHINSON - On November 19th, peacefully at home, Nancy. Much loved and sadly missed by Annie, Sophie, Veronica, her family and many friends. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Avington on Tuesday 26th November at 3pm. Flowers to Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester.

IRVING - Angela Unity died peacefully on 18th November. Beloved mother of Diana and grandmother to James and Rebecca. All enquiries to Michael Smy (01473) 271674.

JOHN - Rosemary A. (née Donald) at home in Priston on Tuesday 19th November after a spirited battle. Wife of Jamie and mother of Alexandra and Henry. Always loving and always loved. Funeral at Priston Parish Church on Saturday 23rd November at 2 pm. Flowers to G. Mannings & Sons Ltd., Combe Down, Bath.

MARRIOTT - On November 18th in her 91st year, Valerie (née Pridmore), widow of Dick Marriott and sister to Joan and Betty. Funeral Service at Bury (Sussex) Church at 10 am on Tuesday November 26th followed by committal at The Chichester Crematorium at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Nurses, South Hill, Storrington Road, Thakeham, West Sussex RH20 3EN.

McKINNEY - Rev. Dr. Richard W.A. on Wednesday 20th November peacefully at his home Eaglemont, Melbourne 3084, Australia, after a long battle with cancer. Deeply regretted by his loving wife Margaret and family circle at home and abroad.

OLDHAM - Frank who passed away on 16th November, lovingly remembered by his wife Joan and daughter Eugenie. Funeral Service on Monday 25th November at Holy Apostles Church, Winchester Street, Pimlico at 1 pm. No flowers please, donations to RNLI c/o Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260B Fulham Road, SW10 9EL.

PERREN - George Ernest on November 19th died at home bravely and with great dignity. Funeral Service at Ipswich Crematorium North Chapel at 11.30 am on Friday 22nd November. No flowers please but any donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Suffolk Appeals Office, 20 Beach Road, Lowestoft NR32 1EA, tel: (01502) 537937.

RAMSLAND - On 17th November 1996 at Mt. Alvernia Hospital, Guildford. Johan Fleming 'John' aged 54. Loving husband of Sue and father of Johan-James, Benjamin and Nicholas. A private Funeral Service will take place next week with a Memorial Service for friends and colleagues to be arranged at a later date. Family flowers only and donations in lieu to M.A.R.C.'s Line c/o Wessex Cancer Trust, 11 Westwood Road, Southampton SO17 1DL and The Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 15-19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ.

SPRIGGS - Malcolm Gleeson peacefully on 17th November. Husband of the late Muriel (née Smalley) and the late Ethel (née Seager). Father of John and Paul and grandfather of Angela, Robert, Karen and Vanessa.

TRUSCOTT - Ethel Margaret (Betty) née Lyell, died peacefully at home on 18th November. Dearly loved wife of the late Denis Henry Truscott G.B.E., T.D. Beloved mother of Rosemary, Elspeth, Jane and Anne, very dear mother-in-law and much loved and devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. The funeral will be held at St Mary's Church, Arthur Road, Wimbledon on Wednesday 27th November at 1 pm. No flowers please but a donation in her memory sent to Marie Curie Nurses would be very much appreciated (Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8QG or phone 0800 716 146).

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CHUBB - A Memorial Service for J.O. Chubb C.M.G. will be held in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral on 13th December at 11.30 am.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

POLNAY - Peter de Polnay, author, died in Paris on November 21st, 1984. His wife, son, family and friends remember him with love. A mass will be said in Saint-Nicolas-du-Chardonnet, in Paris.

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LORD BANCROFT

Lord Bancroft, GCB, Head of the Home Civil Service and Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department, 1978-81, died on November 19 aged 73. He was born on December 23, 1922.

Ian Bancroft was one of the most able and distinguished civil servants of his generation, and his rise to be Head of the Home Civil Service was, if not effortless, then almost inevitable and certainly well merited. He served with great distinction first as director general of establishments and organisation and then as Permanent Secretary in the Department of the Environment. It was his misfortune that the last years of his time in Whitehall, as Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department and Head of the Home Civil Service, were overshadowed by the arrival of a Prime Minister determined upon a reduction in Civil Service numbers and sceptical about the value of a department which she viewed as being divorced from the realities of actual day-to-day administration. In that sense, he was one of the first — though not the last — casualties of Margaret Thatcher's impatience with all institutions which she saw as being detached from the management of money and resources.

Ian Powell Bancroft was the son of Alfred Ernest Bancroft. He was educated at Coatham School, in Cleveland, and Balliol College, Oxford, of which he was a scholar (and latterly an honorary fellow). He served in the Rifle Brigade from 1942 to 1945, and joined the Civil Service in 1947 as one of the "reconstruction" entrants. He was posted to the Treasury as an assistant principal, and was quickly marked out as a "flyer" by being made private secretary to Sir Henry Wilson Smith, then Second Secretary. He served under Sir William Armstrong in the private office o R. A. Butler when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and went with Butler, for whom he had a high regard, as his private secretary when he became Lord Privy Seal in December 1955. Spells in the Cabinet Office and later in the Treasury expenditure divisions were followed in 1964 by his becoming principal private secretary to the Chancellor (first Reginald Maudling and then James Callaghan). He was promoted to under-secretary in 1966 when only 43.

He was serving on the management side of the Treasury when it was hived off to become the new Civil Service Department in 1968. Under William Armstrong as Permanent Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, Bancroft took charge of the "machinery of government" division within the CSD. In that capacity he was much involved in the detailed preparations for setting up the giant departments, which were then in fashion, and particularly for the amalgamation of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Public Building and Works into the mammoth Department of the Environment.

When the Heath Government in 1970 decided to go ahead with this huge new conglomerate ministry in Marsham Street, Bancroft was appointed its director general of establishment and organisation on promotion to deputy secretary. The central organisations of three departments with different traditions had to be welded together. Cherished ways of working had to be challenged and discarded. Some saw their personal prospects lessened. The task of managing the amalgamation was complex and burdensome. Nonetheless, Bancroft had by 1972 establishe the structure of an integrated department, in which land use planning and transport planning were under single ministerial direction, as had long been advocated. Responsibility for government buildings and accommodation was put into the Property Services Agency, which remained part of the DoE. The DoE was thus established as an effectively welded entity.

That task successfully accomplished, it was obvious that Bancroft was destined soon to head a department of his own. Towards the end of 1972 he moved in his existing rank to Customs and Excise, the head of which was shortly to retire. It was, however, a time of unrest in the Civil Servic over the Heath Government's pay pause — troubles in which Customs were much concerned — and the preoccupation of William Armstrong with advising the Prime Minister on counter-inflation policy left something of a hiatus at the top of the Civil Service Department.

It was, therefore, decided to create a second Permanent Secretary post in the department, to be responsible for running it on a day-to-day basis: and Bancroft was promoted to fill the position. In it he set himself the task of trying to remove the causes of the ill-feeling that had grown up among civil servants, and had given rise to a widespread view that only by militant action would management be made to take notice of grievances over pay and conditions.

At the end of 1975 Bancroft returned to the Department of the Environment to succeed Sir David Serpell as its Permanent Secretary. Relations between central and local government were at a difficult juncture. The Layfield report had recommended far-reaching changes in local government finance in the direction of greater financial independence. But local authorities were demonstrating an increased propensity to overspend their agreed public expenditure allocations, and that brought with it suggestions of a need for greater, not less, central government control of local spending.

Departmental expenditure also came under pressure as part of the public expenditure cuts from 1976 onwards. Bancroft quickly established good relationships with the leaders of local government and the building industry (which also came within the DoE's purview); and his close acquaintance with the heads of other departments concerned in varying aspects of local government, built up over years of working with them in Whitehall, was of great help in co-ordinating, from the DoE, the general direction of policy on local government.

The decision of the new Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, to restore responsibilities for transport once again to a separate department unstitched part of the amalgamation which Bancroft had worked so effectively to achieve. He sought to carry through the separation in a way that retained as many of the benefits of the amalgamation as possible, and particularly the preservation of common staff lists, and a common staffing organisation. The fact that the divorce was accomplished with minimal friction owed much to his direction and to his handling of relationships with the staff affected, and with the staff associations.

When the time came for Sir Douglas Allen (now Lord Croham) to retire as Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department and Head of the Home Civil Service towards the end of 1977, Bancroft was obviously a strong candidate to succeed him. His appointment was widely expected and warmly welcomed by his peers and colleagues. It seemed to be the crowning achievement of his career in the public service.

His last two years in office, from 1979 to 1981, were not, however, comfortable. Mrs Thatcher's declared determination to improve the efficiency of the Civil Service was inevitably seen as an implicit criticism of existing inefficiency, something which Bancroft, as Head of the Home Civil Service, felt to be much exaggerated and unfair. He was not opposed to a reduction in the size of the Civil Service, and ready to play his part in achieving it: but he felt that a published commitment to a target reduction of 20 per cent over five years, without clear and detailed proposals as to how this was to be achieved, was unsatisfactory and bad for Civil Service morale. The Prime Minister's scepticism about the effectiveness and value of the CSD, together with her appointment of a a new efficiency unit, headed by an "outsider" (Sir Derek Rayner from Marks & Spencer) and not under the umbrella of the CSD, added to the uneasiness of the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Head of the Home Civil Service. Moreover, Bancroft himself was not in the best of health at this time.

The Prime Minister's decision in November 1981 to abolish the CSD, to divide its functions between the Treasury and a new Manpower and Personnel Office within the Cabinet Office, and to designate the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and the Secretary of the Cabinet as Joint Heads of the Home Civil Service, meant for Bancroft a premature and unhappy end to his distinguished career as a public servant. He accepted the decision with dignity, and characteristically with more concern for its implications for others than with those for himself.

He had been appointed CB in 1971, created KCB in 1975 and advanced to GCB in 1979; the overall distinction of his Whitehall career was recognised by his being made a life peer in 1982 — here he was luckier than some later Heads of the Diplomatic Service. In retirement he took on a number of appointments, some commercial (as with his deputy chairmanship of Sun Life) but mostly of a public service or charitable nature.

He used every opportunity presented to him as a member of the House of Lords to defend the values of public service and the good name of the Civil Service with the same tenacity and determination that he had shown while in government. Earlier this year he led an attempt in the House of Lords to stop the Government from privatising the Recruitment and Assessment Services, which culminated in a vote on the issue and a defeat for the Government by a sizeable majority. Bancroft was not the only person to be annoyed when the Government went ahead with its plans regardless, apparently on the principle, *Hoc volo, sic jubeo; sit pro ratione voluntas* ("This I wish, this I order; don't ask me why").

As an official, Ian Bancroft was disciplined and invariably self-controlled; skilful in sizing up a difficult problem quickly; deft and expeditious in the dispatch of business; and effective in negotiation. He was meticulous in planning the handling of a problem so as to make sure that it was resolved in the most effective way, and so as to minimise the scope for the unexpected.

As a man, he was unfailingly approachable, courteous, likeable and understanding: great fun to work with; sensitive more than most to the effects of outside changes on an individual's prospects and hopes, and anxious to soothe as far as possible: yet with an iron hand in the velvet glove where the public interest, as he saw it, so demanded.

He had a major internal operation earlier in his career, and another not long before he retired. Although they must have taken their toll, he nevertheless contrived to stand up to pressure over the years without wilting, and both before and after his retirement took upon himself a daunting load of commitments.

While an undergraduate he had some poems published (though he was subsequently said not to recognise quotations from them). Watching, and following, cricket were both keen interests.

In 1950 he married Jean, the daughter of David Richard Swaine, who survives him, together with two sons and a daughter. He was sustained throughout his career by the devoted support of his wife, a happy family life and the unstinted respect and affection of his colleagues and friends.

PROFESSOR VIC HARRISON

Vic Harrison, Professor of Morbid Anatomy at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, University of London, 1955-72, died on October 24 aged 89. He was born on January 21, 1907.

VIC HARRISON was one of the most distinguished pathologists of his generation. As Professor of Morbid Anatomy at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School he contributed to every aspect of the life of the school and the associated Hammersmith Hospital: the clinical care of patients, postgraduate medical education and research. Collaboration with laboratory-based and clinical colleagues came naturally to him, making his expertise in morbid anatomy and histology freely available to anyone with a problem to which it was relevant.

In research much of his work was collaborative. He worked on dust diseases of the lung with Earl King, and on pulmonary vascular diseases of the lung with Paul Wood, John Goodwin and Robert Steiner. Histopathologists from all over the world were trained in his department, and he made essential contributions to the educational activities of all departments of the school, notably in the preparation of material for clinicopathological conferences.

Charles Victor Harrison was educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, where he made his mark not only academically, but also as a gymnast.

He went on to study medicine at University College, Cardiff, and at University College Hospital, London. As a student he had been awarded the Willie Seager gold medal in pathology and, after qualification, he immediately took up an appointment in E. H. Kettle's department of pathology in Cardiff. In 1935, he moved to the newly-founded Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith, where Kettle had been appointed Professor of Pathology.

In 1939 Harrison became senior lecturer in pathology in Liverpool, where he spent the war years, doing his share of fire-watching, but continuing research activities, notably on the rhesus factor in obstetrics. He returned to the Postgraduate Medical School of London in Hammersmith in 1946 as a Reader, and in 1955 was appointed Professor of Morbid Anatomy.

In 1963 Harrison became a founder Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, and in 1967 he was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians. In 1972 the University of Wales awarded him a DSc, *honoris causa*.

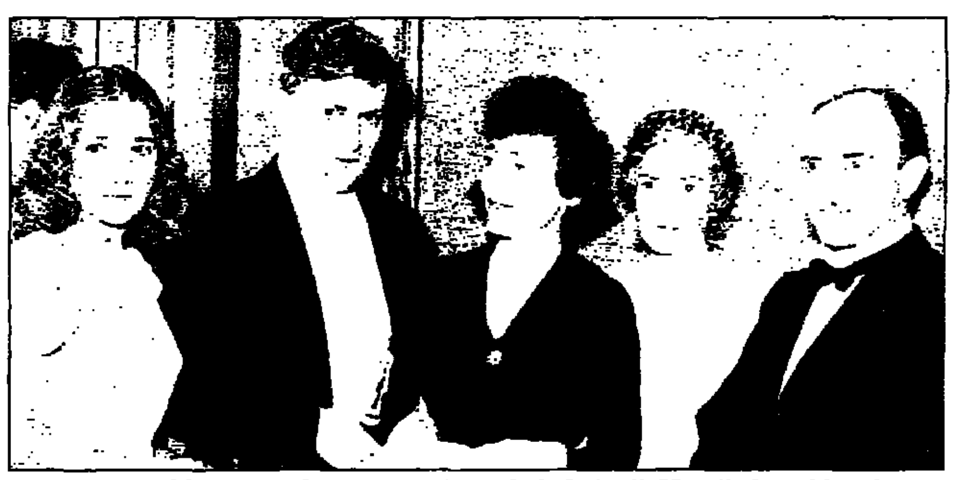
When he retired from the chair at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in 1972, Harrison applied for the chair of Pathology at the new University of Ife, Nigeria. Here he spent three years setting up a department, training a new generation of students and selecting and preparing his successor. On his return to England he continued for several years acting as a short-term locum pathologist in hospitals in the Home Counties.

In retirement he settled down to enjoy his extra-medical interests. He was an excellent carpenter and a keen small boat sailor. His most ambitious project had been to build a 10 ft sailing dinghy which plied the Thames at weekends for many years. He also took an active interest in history, gardening and ornithology.

Harrison's wife, Olga, whom he married in 1937, died last year. He is survived by a son.

MARUTHA MENUHIN

Marutha Menuhin, mother of Lord Menuhin, died on November 15 aged 100. She was born on January 7, 1896.



The Menuhins: Marutha (centre) with Yaltah, Yehudi, Hepzibah and Moshe

THE remarkable life of Lord Menuhin has been guided and shaped by two equally remarkable woman. One is the great violinist's formidably protective second wife, Diana, whom he married in 1947; the other, whose influence persisted right up to her death last week, was his extraordinary mother, Marutha.

Yehudi Menuhin has described his mother as "unerring in purpose, unhesitating and even ruthless in means". Her discipline and dedication were undoubtedly decisive in nurturing and developing his precocious talent. But there was a price to be paid for the devotion of so exacting a matriarch, and Menuhin's was a childhood with few of the conventional emotional trappings.

Menuhin and his two sisters — all three became professional musicians — were brought up strictly and in isolation, "without toys and playthings", and never went to school. To Marutha Menuhin, self-control was all-important. She was, according to her son, "a passionate and deeply feeling woman, but totally unsentimental. There was no hugging. She took pride in standing pain." He never saw her cry.

Lord Menuhin looks back on his unorthodox childhood with warmth and affection, and would never hear a word against his mother. His younger sister, the pianist Yaltah, has less fond memories of growing up. "We were isolated as we travelled around the world with Yehudi," she once complained. "We were not living the life of childhood at all. Trying to live in public when you're suffering privately is difficult."

In Yaltah's recollection, her mother was a tyrant, responsible not only for neglecting her children but for breaking up her son's first marriage. Those accusations brought Marutha Menuhin unwelcome public attention when they formed part of a controversial account of Yehudi Menuhin's life by the film-maker Tony Palmer, presented first on television in 1990 and then as a book which its subject tried to ban. Menuhin found the charges incomprehensible and unfair.

Marutha Menuhin's origins were mysterious, and she liked to make them more mysterious still. She was born Marutha Sher in the Crimea, of a family belonging to the tiny Karaite sect, Jewish Scriptural fundamendalists who were reputed to have converted from Christianity. Her blonde hair and striking blue eyes, pointed, it was suggested, to Tartar or Circassian blood — as, perhaps, did a streak of fierceness and a lifelong fascination with knives.

The only one of seven siblings to survive beyond infancy, she was sent with her mother to Palestine in 1904, to escape the pogroms in Russia. Her father stayed behind, and their separation became permanent. It was in Palestine that she encountered her future husband, Moshe Mnuchin, but it was only later, in 1914, that they married, after meeting again in America by chance.

Between leaving Jaffa and arriving in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Marutha had added English and French to her original Russian, Yiddish and Hebrew. She was later to learn German, Italian and Spanish as well, and family conversations might be in any or all of those languages.

After settling in America Moshe Menuhin and his wife earned a living as teachers; he rose to be head of the Jewish education board in San Francisco, with her as his assistant. But when the extraordinary talents of their children became apparent, the family embarked on a nomadic life wholly dedicated to the careers of the three young prodigies.

Moshe Menuhin died in 1988, four years after the family's elder daughter, Hepzibah. Marutha's longevity may have owed something to physical toughness and a rigorous regime. As a young woman she would sleep in her corset to preserve her 22-inch waist. She treated cuts with caustic soda. It was her habit to bathe in ice-cold water mixed with grapefruit skins and a smelly Russian drink called Kvass. She also brewed her own explosive version of Koumiss, a Crimean concoction of mare's milk and, in her daughter-in-law's words, "God alone knows what else".

But what really kept her going was probably her dedication to the cause she held most dear. Her own verdict on her life, delivered in her sole, reluctant contribution to Tony Palmer's film, was straightforward: "I'm grateful you're my son," she told Lord Menuhin. "That covers everything."

Her son and younger daughter survive her.

ON THIS DAY

November 21, 1906

The Doctor's Dilemma was Shaw's reply to the critic William Archer who declared that the playwright could not write a death scene. The dying words of Dubedat — "I believe in Rembrandt, Michelangelo and Velasquez" were held by some critics as blasphemous.

COURT THEATRE.

"THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA."

A Tragedy in Four Acts and an Epilogue

By BERNARD SHAW.

... *Plus ça change plus c'est la meme chose*. That, by the way, is the criticism which, in effect, the oldest of Mr. Shaw's physicians, Sir Patrick Cullen, is always applying to the new-fangled discoveries of his fellow-practitioners. He has seen all these "novelties" before; they have their law of periodicity — say, once in every 15 years — *and nothing is altered but the names. Sir Patrick,* who stands for bluff cynical comment on scientific affectation, heads a group of half-a-dozen medical types. There is Sir Ralph Bloomfield Bonnington — familiarly known as "old B.B." — Court physician (much liked by what he invariably calls "the Family") and platitudinously pompous bungler. He is, as you see, an entirely Molieresque figure. Good easy man, he does not know the difference between a vaccine and an anti-toxin, and is all for stimulating the phagocytes. There is Sir Colenso Ridgeon — just knighted as the curtain rises for his great "opsonin" discovery — who is all for buttering the bacilli. There is the great surgeon, Cutler Walpole, who in every human ill sees blood-poisoning and is all for cutting out the "nuciform sac". Physic he bluntly characterises as "rot"; the physicians, in return, dismiss surgery as mere "manual labour". There remain two types not anticipated by Molière: Leo Schutzmacher, who has made a fortune in the East End by selling advice and drugs for sixpences, under the sign "cure guaranteed", and Dr. Blenkinsop, a hard-working general practitioner who has never succeeded in making both ends meet and begs fashionable consultants for their cast-off frockcoats. All these people display their several humours in a Queen Anne-street consulting room, whither they have come to congratulate Sir Colenso Ridgeon on his Birthday Honour ...

From Queen Anne-street their line of march takes them to the "Star and Garter" at Richmond, and thence to Louis Dubedat's studio. But who is Louis Dubedat? ... Louis Dubedat is an artist with a tuberculous lung ... Jennifer Dubedat, Louis's wife, has sought out Sir Colenso Ridgeon and, with great difficulty, secured his promise to undertake the case. When Ridgeon consents it is really out of his profound (but entirely discreet) admiration for Jennifer, an idealist from Cornwall, a child of nature, to whom belief in Louis' genius is a religion ...

And now Sir Colenso is in a worse dilemma than ever. For he finds that his poor *confrere*, the morally irreproachable Dr. Blenkinsop, has also a turberculous lung. Which is he to save? The good Blenkinsop, who is a *social failure*, or the bad Dubedat who paints good pictures? Good men are fairly common, he argues. Good pictures very rare. And he decides in favour of Dubedat.

But now there is a fresh complication. Jennifer Dubedat's whole life consists in the worship of Louis. If Louis ceased to be her hero, she would commit suicide — has, indeed, already marked out a certain cliff in Cornwall for that purpose. To prolong Dubedat's life is to ensure that his wife shall sooner or later find him out, and so, have her religion shattered and lose her own life into the bargain. Therefore, for Jennifer's sake (even although to the vulgar mind, it may look like murdering a man in the hope of marrying his widow) Sir Colenso must let Louis die.

"Rather hard that of a lad should be killed because his wife has too high an opinion of him" is old Sir Patrick's comments, "fortunately very few of us are in that predicament ...

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THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 1996

NEWS

Tunnel stays shut in safety row

■ The Channel Tunnel is to remain closed indefinitely after Eurotunnel representatives walked out of talks with its safety regulators.

SNCF, the French rail operator, ruled out any resumption of services before Monday, and if the safety authority insists that the tunnel is fully repaired before any trains run, it could be closed until the new year .... Pages 1, 7

Police shoot supermarket gunman

■ A disturbed knifeman who went on the rampage in a busy city supermarket was shot dead by a police marksman last night.The 40-year-old-man, brandishing a knife and a pair of handcuffs, ran into the Co-op shop in Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, Birmingham, after an argument with a woman, believed to be his mother, at a house near by .... Page 1

EMU debate

The Government faced mounting pressure to give way to MPs and allow a debate on the single currency after suffering an embarrassing defeat .... Page 1

Civil Service dispute

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary, became embroiled in a political row as he insisted that the impartiality of civil servants had not been compromised by a *Tory document on Labour spending plans* .... Page 2

Cotswold ceasefire

A High Court judge has called for a ceasefire to a costly ten-year dispute over a stone wall dividing two medieval homes in a Cotswolds town .... Page 3

Crash barrier

Westminster Council yesterday banned the controversial film *Crash* from its cinemas unless the British Board of Film Censors gives it an 18-certificate and insists on cuts .... *Page 5*

Education dispute

Fresh controversy broke out over education standards, as an international study showed English teenagers sliding down the world league in mathematics but improving in science .... Page 6

Hattersley's dog

Roy Hattersley was fined after his "over-friendly" Buster, a Staffordshire bull terrier, inflicted fatal injuries on a goose .... Page 9

Lawlessness warning

The justice system for young offenders is condemned by the Audit Commission which says that the country faces a further increase in lawlessness over the next decade .... Page 11

Library attack

The new British Library is a model to the nation — on how not to manage a major building project, MPs reported .... Page 14

Zaire chaos

Eastern Zaire descended further into chaos as a UN agency said 100,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees were moving north from Bukavu to Goma, while rebels continued their advance towards Kisangani .... Page 15

Clinton Pacific pledge

At the start of his two-week tour of Asia and Australia, President Clinton warned China against international bullying and pledged that the Americans were *in the Pacific to stay* .... *Page 16*

G ingrich election

A more conciliatory Newt Gingrich gained unanimous support for his re-election as America's first two-term House Speaker since the 1920s .... Page 17

Gunman 'not insane'

Tasmania's Supreme Court was told that the 29-year-old gunman accused of killing 35 people was not criminally insane but had a mental age of ten .... Page 18

Angler catches record with 98lb fish

■ A catfish seven feet long and weighing 98lbs, a fish without precedent in the annals of British angling, has been caught from an Essex lake. It was taken by Steve Bond from Oak Lodge, a two-acre water at Rayleigh. The fish was half as heavy again as the next biggest freshwater fish caught in Britain, a 64lb salmon taken by Georgina Ballantine in 1922 .... Page 1

RTV / REUTERS

For the first time since his heart bypass operation President Yeltsin was shown on Russian television yesterday. He was enjoying an outing in the grounds of Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital with his wife, Naina, and a granddaughter. Page 19

BUSINESS

Economy: Shop sales bounced back last month after a dip in September, according to official figures. The annual rise went up to 4.1 per cent in October from 3.6 per cent in September .... Page 27

Mortgages: The revival in the *housing market continued last* month with a 19 rise in in net advances on mortgage money by building societies .... Page 27

Granada: The leisure group that acquired Forte earlier this year raised pre-tax profits 37 per cent to £480 million in the year to end September .... Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 15.3 to 3962.8. Sterling's index fell from 92.3 to 92.0 after a rise from $1.6753 to $1.6768 but a fall from DM2.5173 to DM2.5110 .... Page 30

SPORT

Football: David Seaman, the Arsenal goalkeeper, could be out for up to a month after cracking three ribs during the match against Manchester United .... Page 48

Cricket: To the relief of all Australia, and the profound regret of West *Indies' batsmen, Shane Warne is fit* to resume his Test career after a hand operation .... Page 50

Rugby league: The Super League has launched a championship featuring the 12 European and ten Australasian clubs. It will be played between June and October next year .... Page 48

Tennis: Andre Agassi was booed off court after losing his opening match to Pete Sampras 6-2, 6-1 in the ATP championship finals in Hanover .... Page 49

Silent scream: Lon Chaney is restored to his hideous best for Friday's Festival Hall screening of the 1925 film *The Phantom of the Opera*, with music written and conducted by Carl Davis .... Page 36

Brown study: Great music and *Miranda* Richardson's acting fail to lift Robert Altman's jazz-and-crime movie *Kansas City* .. Page 37

Making tracks: Last year's most controversial film, *Trainspotting*, adapted from Irving Welsh's novel of junkie lowlife, gets the boxed-set video treatment .... Page 38

Soldier, soldier: The ENO triumphantly brings to the Coliseum stage *Die Soldaten*, the most important German opera since Berg's *Lulu* — and reputedly the noisiest opera ever written .... Page 39

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP

Prince's new album, *Emancipation*, and all the top CDs, reviewed by David Sinclair

■ SPORT

Kicking & Sereaming: Lynne Truss stands up for Ruud Gullit

Grande dame: How has Isabella Blow, an eccentric English aristocrat, become one of the most influential fashion people? .... Page 21

Continent cut off: Libby Purves crossed the Channel on the day Britain became an island .. Page 21

Dr Thomas Stuttaford describes symptoms of Parkinson's Disease; troubles with tattoos and how stress can protect women .. Page 20

All the arts: Roy Strong on Sir Frederick Ashton; the frisson of cookery books; Peter Ackroyd on Blake and Burroughs . Pages 40, 41

All on board: The cruise, once only for the rich, is increasingly becoming a bargain .... Page 43

Working it out: League tables help you to assess how independent and state schools measure up . Page 44

Added value: John O'Leary on paying for education .... Page 44

Fidel Castro, seeming more like an orthodox Pope than the leader of a revolution, probably hopes to use the Vatican's goodwill. But his visit to the Holy See could generate a momentum that carries Cuba towards liberty — *El Pais*, Madrid

Preview: Female rugby: *Women At Play* (Channel 4, 8pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss suffers for Nigel Hawthorne's surgeon .... Page 47

Bomb scare

By attacking in such detail and so early, by using bombardment rather than blitzkrieg, the Tories may, like the Great War generals, be giving their opponents time to strengthen their defences . Page 23

Madness in Minsk

Belarus was falling far behind other former communist countries when it elected Aleksandr Lukashenko in 1994. Since then its slide has been precipitous .... Page 23

Citizen army

President Chirac seeks to strengthen the glue which holds society together. Yet France promotes supra-national government which weakens the most and solid form of government in existence, national government .... Page 23

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

There is a geography of reputation. Albert Reynolds has his reputation largely in Ireland, where they know him, not in England, where he is simply a foreign politician. The lesson of the Reynolds case is that there is no call for foreign statesmen to vindicate their politics in our law courts .... Page 22

CHRIS WOODHEAD

What more can we do to improve the prospects of inner-city children? We need first to move on from our current preoccupation with sanctions to consider how bad behav*iour can be avoided* .... Page 22

JOHN BRYANT

Advertising aimed at the claret-drinking classes with the expensive season tickets typifies the changes that have taken place in the great British football crowd .... Page 46

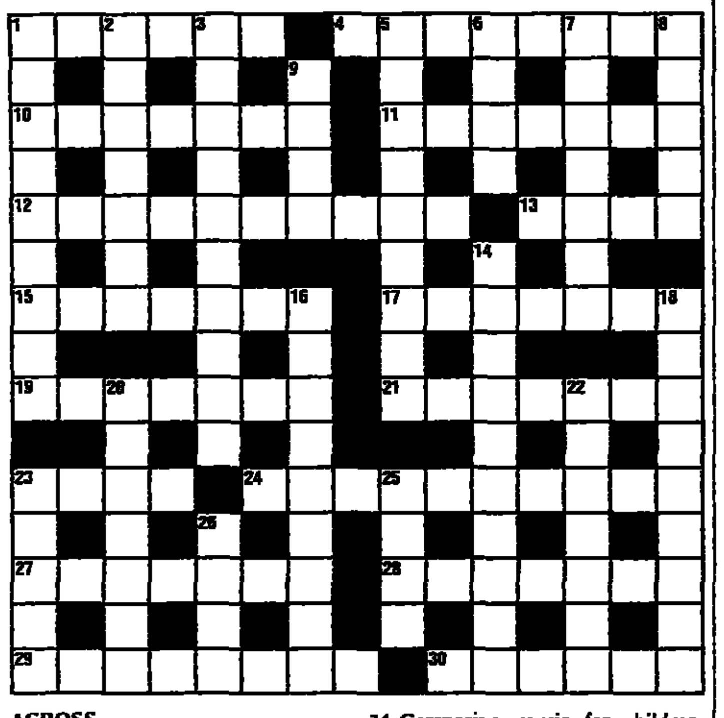
PETER RIDDELL

Without a continued search for sav*ings in existing programmes*, a Labour Government would find it impossible to prevent a rise in the overall burden of taxes .... Page 12

Lord Bancroft, head of the Home Civil Service; **Marutha Menuhin**, mother of Lord Menuhin .. Page 25

Channel Tunnel fire; Britain's pubs and brewers .... Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,331



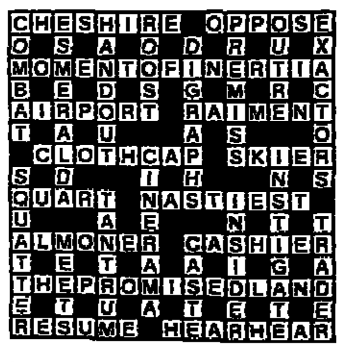
ACROSS

1 Cries of excitement from women's steel bands (6).
4 Craving an analgesic by midnight (5).
10 *Deadlock that's broken by politician meeting fool* (7).
11 Outdoors without a sort of shirt, perhaps – it's balmy (7).
12 Place where one has to drive absolutely soberly (10).
13 Headlight a new driver's showing inside small building (4).
15 Sort of coffee for making a shake (7).
17 She makes entrance to house, putting key in a lock (7).
19 Hide from gasbag endlessly (7).
21 Note about suspicious marks in plant (7).
23 Bird used in humble pie in US? (4).
24 Composing music for children (6,4).
27 Choctaws and Mohawks appear in this entertainment (3-4).
28 Bishop's staff making many more hopeful (7).
29 A look like this kills (8).
30 Familiar member of society (6).

DOWN

1 Rubbish reported on track that's ruined by corporation (9).
2 Tyrannise work-force (7).
3 Minister has to wed in country style (10).
5 Girls' game in northern buffet dance (5,4).
6 Shooting this in US gun club (4).
7 Send to Coventry one so tardy (7).
8 Great enjoyment, tucking into asparagus tops (5).
9 Cheese provided by 6, thanks (4).
14 After bolting, locking it is of little use (6-4).
16 High social position of PRA? (3,6).
18 Bowled over, lost one's footing (9).
20 Wild flower absorbing nitrogen (7).
22 Beastly chap having one over the eight (7).
23 Mount getting caught on a branch (5).
25 Pack dress (4).
26 Man previously in charge of meeting I ran (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,330



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Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

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Moon sets 2:47 am
Moon rises 2:29 pm

Full moon November 25

London 4:34 pm to 7:31 am
Bristol 4:14 pm to 7:40 am
Edinburgh 3:55 pm to 8:34 am
Manchester 4:03 pm to 7:48 am
Penzance 4:21 pm to 7:47 am

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Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a frosty start. It will be dry and sunny in many places but coastal places exposed to the north will have sleet or hail showers

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers of sleet, snow or hail. Frost is expected

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** frost, some showers in the east but mainly dry with sunny spells. Wind northerly, swinging westerly mainly moderate. Cold. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N:** early frost then dry with sunny spells. Wind northwesterly moderate turning westerly. Cold. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** frost then sunny spells and sleet or hail showers, snow on higher ground. Wind northwesterly moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands:** frost, then sunny spells broken by hail or snow showers. Wind northwesterly moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland**: early frost, frequent hail or snow showers. Wind northwesterly moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** wintry showers and widespread frost.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

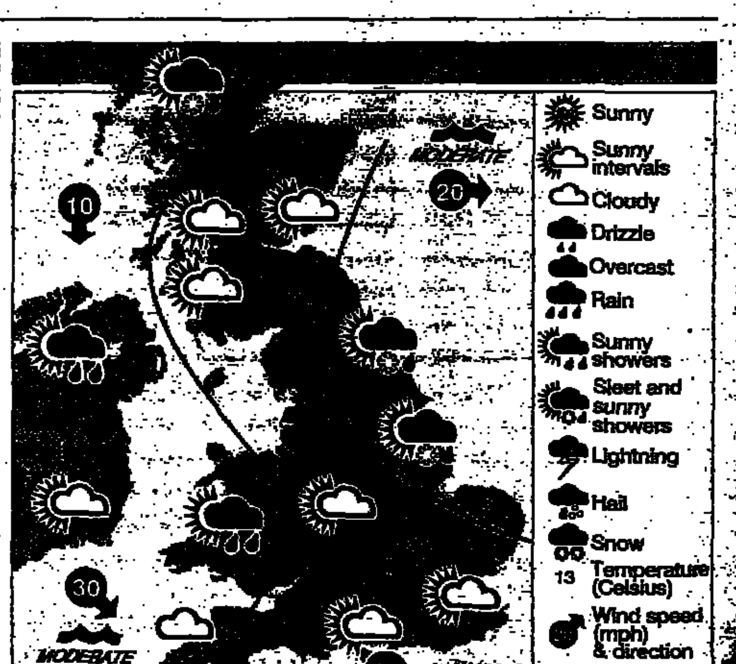
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.19	2	36	sn
Anglesey	2.7	0.56	7	45	sh
Aspatria	1.1	0.09	3	37	sn
Aviemore	1.0	0.29	1	34	sn
Belfast	3.6	0.11	4	39	sn
Birmingham	1.1	0.22	5	41	c
Bognor R	1.6	0.35	5	41	sh
Bournem'th	2.9	0.85	7	45	s
Bristol	3.7	0.38	8	46	b
Buxton	0.1	1.02	2	36	b
Cardiff	4.2	0.10	7	45	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.29	6	43	sh
Cromer	0.8	0.69	7	45	sh
Eastbourne	0.9	0.18	7	45	d
Edinburgh	2.4	0.28	4	39	b
Exmouth	3.6	0.07	8	46	h
Falmouth	3.6	0.53	10	50	s
Fishguard	0.7	0.05	7	45	h
Folkestone	0.1	1.01	8	46	c
Glasgow	5.7	0.01	5	41	s
Guernsey	2.7	0.06	10	50	c
Hastings	0.5	0.15	7	45	c
Hayling I.	1.9	0.60	7	45	r
Hove	-	0.10	6	43	c
Hunstanton	0.6	0.10	7	45	r
Isle of Man	3.6	0.02	6	43	s
Jersey	4.0	0.23	X	X	b
Kinloss	-	0.13	4	39	sl
Leeds	1.5	0.69	4	39	sh
Lerwick	2.5	0.04	3	37	h
Leuchars	3.2	0.15	4	39	sn
Littlehmptn	1.3	0.27	6	43	s
London	1.9	0.08	7	45	b
Lowestoft	0.4	0.22	8	46	sl
Manchester	0.3	0.02	4	39	c
Margate	-	0.56	8	46	r
Minehead	2.9	0.57	8	46	b
Morecambe	0.5	0.01	5	41	du
Newcastle	1.4	0.54	3	37	sl
Norwich	1.7	0.17	7	45	sh
Oxford	2.0	0.15	6	43	r
Poole	2.5	1.00	7	45	s
Ross-o-wye	2.6	0.48	7	45	c
Sandown	2.8	0.72	6	43	s
Saunton Snd	1.9	0.06	10	50	du
Scarboro'	0.8	0.41	7	45	sl
Shanklin	1.9	0.62	6	43	r
Shrewsbury	1.8	0.15	5	41	sh
Skegness	2.1	0.42	7	45	sh
Southend	0.4	0.60	7	46	sh
Southport	1.0	-	5	41	b
Southsea	1.2	0.48	7	45	r
Swanage	2.9	0.69	7	45	sh
Teignmouth	4.1	0.08	9	48	sh
Tenby	4.3	0.14	7	45	sh
Tiree	0.8	0.01	5	41	sh
Torquay	5.4	0.04	9	48	b
Ventnor	2.4	0.60	6	43	r
West-s-mare	2.2	0.20	8	46	b
Weymouth	4.4	0.42	8	46	s

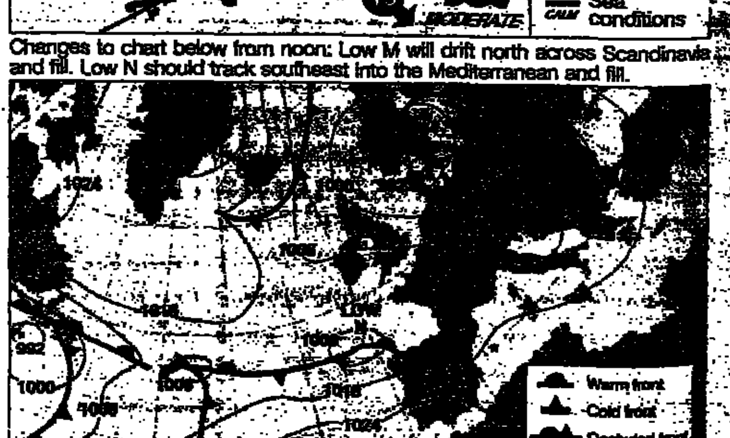
ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f
Akrotiri	23	73	s
Alex'dria	25	77	f
Algiers	16	61	f
Amst'dm	4	39	[illegible]
Athens	19	66	f
B Aires	30	86	f
Bahrain	27	81	s
Bangkok	28	82	f
Barbados	29	84	c
Barcelona	13	55	s
Beirut	23	73	f
Belfast	3	37	f
Belgrade	18	64	s
Berlin	3	37	r
Bermuda	20	68	f
Biarritz	13	55	s
Birmingham	1	34	sn
Blackpool	1	34	f
Borde'x	8	46	r
Bristol	9	48	f
Brussels	4	39	s
Budapst	12	54	f
Cairo	28	82	f
Cardiff	6	43	f
Chicago	1	34	f
Cologne	6	43	f
Corfu	18	64	c
C'phagn	4	39	r
Dublin	3	37	r
Dubrovnik	15	59	f
Edinburgh	2	36	sl
Faro	15	59	c
Florence	15	59	f
Frankfurt	3	37	c
Funchal	18	64	c
Geneva	3	37	f
Gibraltar	15	59	s
Glasgow	2	36	sl
Guernsey	10	50	r
Helsinki	7	45	f
Hong K	21	70	f
Innsbrck	5	41	c
Inverness	-1	30	sn
Istanbul	18	64	f
Jersey	10	50	f
L Angels	19	66	s
L Palmas	22	72	f
Le Touquet	2	36	f
Lisbon	15	59	c
Locarno	9	48	f
London	6	43	r
Luxembg	1	34	f
Luxor	27	81	f
Madrid	7	45	c
Majorca	15	59	f
Malaga	15	59	s
Malta	18	64	f
Manchester	1	34	sl
Melb'rne	14	57	c
Mexico C	18	64	s
Miami	26	79	s
Milan	12	54	c
Montreal	2	36	fg
Moscow	5	41	c
Munich	7	45	s
N York	11	52	s
Nairobi	22	72	f
Naples	13	55	c
Newcastle	5	41	f
Nice	13	55	s
Oslo	1	34	d
Paris	3	37	r
Peking	10	50	s
Perth	28	82	s
Reykjavik	-7	19	s
Rhodes	22	72	f
Rio de J	24	75	f
Riyadh	22	72	f
Rome	11	52	f
Ronaldsway	1	34	sl
S Frisco	17	63	s
S Paulo	23	73	r
Sing'por	28	82	t
St'kholm	9	48	r
Strasb'rg	6	43	s
Sydney	17	63	s
Tangier	15	59	s
Tel Aviv	27	81	s
Tenerife	22	72	c
Tokyo	16	61	s
Tunis	14	57	c
Valencia	13	55	f
Vanc'ver	0	32	c
Venice	13	55	f
Vienna	9	48	c
Warsaw	11	52	r
Wash'ton	12	54	r
Wel'ngton	15	59	-
Zurich	5	41	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: Low M will drift north across Scandinavia and fill. Low N should track southeast into the Mediterranean and fill.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10:08	6.4	10:46	6.8
Aberdeen	10:20	3.9	10:26	4.0
Avonmouth	3:33	11.1	4:03	11.8
Belfast	7:45	3.2	8:06	3.4
Cardiff	3:18	10.6	3:49	11.1
Devonport	2:10	4.8	2:33	5.0
Dover	7:44	6.0	8:25	6.0
Dublin (N Wall)	8:30	3.8	8:39	4.0
Falmouth	1:38	4.4	2:00	4.8
Greenock	9:19	3.2	9:41	3.4
Harwich	8:00	3.5	8:42	3.8
Holyhead	7:08	5.0	7:21	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	2:18	6.6	3:11	6.9
Ilfracombe	2:28	7.9	2:57	8.4
King's Lynn	2:32	6.0	3:12	5.8
Leith	11:21	5.1	11:38	5.2
Liverpool	7:51	8.3	8:13	8.7
Lowestoft	5:37	2.4	6:44	2.3
Margate	8:24	4.3	9:18	4.5
Milford Haven	2:45	6.0	3:12	6.3
Newquay	1:37	5.9	2:02	6.2
Oban	2:49	3.2	3:10	3.7
Penzance	1:12	4.8	1:37	5.1
Portland	3:08	1.7	3:26	1.9
Portsmouth	7:56	4.5	8:21	4.4
Shoreham	7:57	5.8	8:27	5.6
Southampton	7:22	4.4	7:49	4.3
Swansea	2:48	8.1	3:17	8.6
Tees	-	-	12:58	4.8
Walton-on-Naze	8:01	3.8	8:41	3.9

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Falmouth, Cornwall, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: St Mawgan, Cornwall, 1.22in; highest sunshine: Glasgow, 5.7hr.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE – 21 NO

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	992
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	4,864
Cost to RNLI per day:	£173,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Reg. Charity No. 209603

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 1996

Tecs braced for Budget cut in youth training funds

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is expected to cut the main government training programme for young people in next week's Budget by up to 20 per cent. Training and Enterprise Councils are bracing themselves for cuts in their funding.

Rumours of cuts in the Tecs' funding have been circulating among training leaders for some time. Based on leaked information from sources close to the Cabinet, Tec leaders believe that cuts of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent, and perhaps as much as 20 per cent, will be announced in the Budget.

YT, the Government's main programme for school leavers, offers vocational training to 16- and 17-year-olds to the equivalent of GCSE standard. Currently 263,500 young people are on YT, and with Modern Apprenticeships, the programme with which it is linked, costs £669 million.

Even though overall unemployment is continuing to fall, unemployment among young people remains high, and Tec leaders believe that cuts on such a scale in what they claim is now a successful programme will provoke strong opposition from business, training providers and the opposition.

Today, Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, will publish the Government's latest strategic guidance document for Tecs, called *Tecs Beyond 2000*, which in effect is a five-year plan on what the Government sees as their future tasks.

The document will strongly emphasise the need for Tecs and local authorities to work together at local level towards local economic development. It will set out the rationalisation of business services that Tecs help to provide through the Government's Business Links network, and will seek to foster further mergers between Tecs and chambers of commerce, which Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, is understood to be pressing for particularly.

The guidance will also attempt to resolve some of the local rivalries between chambers, Tecs and Business Links by making it clear that the BLs are the "retail arm" of the organisations, which manage their funding, including Tecs.

Chris Humphries, the Tec National Council policy director, said: "Young people are clearly opting for YT and Modern Apprenticeships as their learning route of choice."

Tecs also said that YT was showing "significant" quality improvements, moving away from what they admitted was its earlier reputation as a programme offering low-level skills. The organisation said that in 1995-96, 82 per cent of all the qualifications obtained by YT participants were at NVQ Level 2 and above — equivalent to GCSE — compared with 37 per cent in in 1991.

Sir Garry Johnson, Tec National Council chairman, who will join Mrs Shephard in announcing the new guidance, strongly defended YT, saying: "Government figures show that more than 84 per cent of young people who complete YT either get a job, or go on to continuing full-time education."

With youth unemployment still high, Sir Garry added, "YT offers a real beacon of hope and opportunity".

Rate and Budget pressures for Clarke

By Janet Bush and Robert Miller

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, came under further pressure yesterday to resist a giveaway Budget and consider further increases in interest rates after figures suggesting considerable economic buoyancy.

The last batch of key economic statistics before next Tuesday's Budget included strong bank and building society lending, a surge in money supply, a new record for car production and another healthy rise in high street spending.

In the City, stocks and government bonds fell on fears that Mr Clarke will be forced to raise interest rates again, under pressure from the Bank of England. The next meeting on rates is on December 11.

The Office for National Statistics said that retail sales rose 0.4 per cent in October, reversing the 0.3 per cent drop recorded in September. These figures were in line with City forecasts and confirmed that consumer spending is robust.

However, there was worrying news for the City in the shape of a 1.1 per cent rise in the M4 measure of broad money supply in October. Annual growth rose to 10.3 per cent from 9.9 per cent in September. The measure has now been outside the Government's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range for a year. Although the Treasury has not appeared to take much notice of strong growth in M4, the Bank of England will be concerned.

Pennington 29

The main component boosting M4 was a huge £7.4 billion jump in bank and building society lending, which compared with a much smaller increase of £3.7 billion in September. It may well be that lending was boosted by companies borrowing to finance corporation tax repayments, which were particularly strong in October. However, other lending figures yesterday suggested across the board and genuine strength in credit demand.

Separate figures from the British Bankers' Association showed that lending by the main British banking groups rose £3.07 billion in October, compared with an increase of £2.40 billion in September. The BBA said that mortgage lending and consumer credit were both strong, but also that there was now a greater and more widespread appetite for finance within industry.

The Building Societies Association said net mortgage advances in October were £1.3 billion, compared with £1.1 billion in September, while approvals were up sharply at £3.9 billion, compared with £3.5 billion. Gross advances rose £324 million to £3.8 billion.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the BSA, said new lending to first-time buyers and people trading up was much higher than at the start of the year. However, he added that, while the recovery in mortgage lending was soundly based, the 0.25 per cent rise in base rates at the end of October, along with the approaching Budget, may have introduced some uncertainty into the market, which could affect lending in the next month or so.

"The Chancellor's overriding aim in his Budget next week *should therefore be for* economic stability," he said.

The BSA also reported an inflow of savers' funds of £928 million in October, compared with £512 million in September. It suggested that fears of a stock market "correction" may have driven would-be equity investors back to the haven of building society savings accounts.

Mr Coles noted that there was usually an up-turn in savings at this time of year, as people begun to save for Christmas, but that October's inflow was more than twice as much as in the previous month and the highest since September last year.

He said: "Societies' success may reflect investors' caution over personal equity plans after widespread comment about the possibility of share prices falling, but it is also related to the attractive interest rates available on many building society products."

UK production of cars accelerated 39.3 per cent last month to record its highest October total. The figure for October was 179,963, compared with 129,192 in October 1995.

Gerry Robinson rejected calls for a demerger of Granada's television side

Granada impresses City with handling of Forte

By Alasdair Murray

A YEAR on from the launch of its bid battle for Forte, Granada, the media and hotels company, impressed the City yesterday by fulfilling its promises and delivering a 37 per cent increase in full-year profits, before tax and exceptionals, to £480 million.

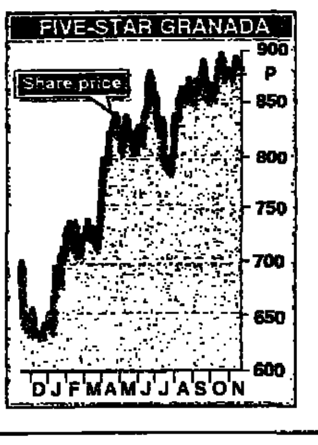
At the time of the £3.9 billion bid, Granada, which now *controls businesses ranging* from Happy Eaters to *Coronation Street*, set itself a profit target of an extra £100 million from the Forte businesses by the end of 1997.

The company yesterday disclosed that it had raised profits by £40 million in the first eight and half months since winning control of Forte — well above analysts' expectations.

However, Granada shares fell 10p, to 882½p, after a *market rumour that the company* was interested in buying Accor, the French hotels company, although Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, flatly denied the speculation.

Some City critics were also disappointed that Gerry Robinson, chairman, again rejected demerger of the media side and said that Granada had no plans to sell its 10.8 per cent of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, in the near future.

The hotel division, acquired in the Forte takeover, recorded profits of £168 million, a 53 per cent rise on a like-for-like basis. Profits of the Exclusive chain of *hotels, which Granada is selling* grew by 60 per cent, to £31 million. Granada sold the Hyde Park Hotel to Mandarin Oriental International for £86 million this week.



The media division, including the Granada and LWT television franchises, lifted its profits 17 per cent, to £163 million. *Coronation Street* branding deals, including sponsorship by Cadbury Schweppes, added £8 million in revenue.

The restaurant division increased operating profits by 80 per cent, to £217 million, aided by inclusion of former Forte businesses, such as Little Chef. Granada said that Welcome Break, the motorway service chain, had increased profits by 39 per cent and is set for disposal early next year. Rental division profits rose by 3 per cent, to £126 million.

Exceptional costs were £76 million, including £73 million for a reorganisation of Forte *businesses involving nearly* 600 job losses. Granada said there will be no more charges.

The total dividend rises by 11 per cent, to 13p. A final payout of 8.765p is due on April 1.

Pennington, page 29

Bill Gates gets 3% stake in Chiroscience

By Paul Durman

BILL GATES, the founder and chairman of Microsoft, is to take a 3 per cent stake in Chiroscience as part of the biotechnology company's $120 million acquisition of Darwin Molecular Corporation, an American genetic engineering firm.

Mr Gates and Paul Allen, Microsoft's co-founder, each own 14 per cent of Darwin, which like Microsoft is based in Seattle. The all-share deal, announced yesterday, will give Mr Gates, who is a director of Darwin, a holding of a little more than 3 per cent in the Chiroscience equity.

Chiroscience is one of Britain's largest biotech companies, valued in the stock market at nearly £300 million. Its first drug, a painkiller, has just been launched in Spain, but Chiroscience is working on a local anaesthetic and cancer drugs that are potentially more important.

John Padfield, chief executive of Chiroscience, said the deal with Darwin would give the company access to many new drug candidates, and to a "world class toolbox" of skills that will help it to develop its existing products.

Darwin works on an earlier stage of the drug development process, identifying the genes responsible for diseases. It also has expertise in molecular biology and combinatorial chemistry. Chiroscience hopes that Darwin will enable it to improve its MMP inhibitors, an important class of arthritis and cancer drugs.

Dr Padfield said: "It really is a case of 1 plus 1 making so much more." He said Mr Gates took part in the merger talks, and added: "He is very, very keen on [Darwin's] science."

Chiroscience will issue around 19 million shares to pay for Darwin — the exact number will depend on its average share price in the first two weeks of December. Yesterday Chiroscience's shares rose 10p to 358½p.

David Galas, Darwin's chief scientific officer, will become an executive director of Chiroscience. Ronald Cape, co-founder and chairman of Darwin, will also join the board.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	3962.8	(-15.3)
Yield	4%	
FTSE All share	1948.57	(-5.51)
Nikkei	21189.96	(+233.78)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6427.04	(+29.44)*
S&P Composite	743.93	(+1.77)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	$5\frac{5}{16}$%*	($5\frac{1}{8}$%)
Long Bond	$100\frac{19}{32}$*	($100\frac{27}{32}$)
Yield	6.45%*	(6.43%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{11}{32}$%	($6\frac{11}{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$110\frac{1}{4}$	($110\frac{9}{16}$)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6785*	(1.6770)
London:		
$	1.6773	(1.6753)
DM	2.5120	(2.5176)
FFr	8.4965	(8.5151)
SFr	2.1232	(2.1244)
Yen	186.46	(186.55)
£ Index	92.0	(92.3)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.4960*	(1.5040)
FFr	5.0820*	(5.0840)
SFr	1.2655*	(1.2700)
Yen	111.23*	(111.52)
$ Index	95.9	(96.1)
Tokyo close Yen 111.17		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	$23.45	($24.20)
GOLD		
London close	$379.15	($378.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Power cut

National Power, the generator, suffered a 24 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £194 million in the six months to the end of September, partly because of a £57 million charge over the failed bid for Southern Electric. A 20 per cent fall in output is expected. Page 28

Racing ahead

British car production rose 39 per cent in October thanks to a surge in exports and a steady home market. Page 32

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Rates correct from 29/11/96

Majority favour higher public spending

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

A MAJORITY of the British public say they would support higher public spending on health and education even if this would lead to higher taxes for them personally, a report published jointly by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and Social and Community Planning Research says today.

The report shows that 64 per cent of the 1,200 people surveyed would approve of higher spending on health and 52 per cent on education, even if taxes were raised. Almost four of every ten people feel the same about spending on the police.

The IFS said: "People's attitudes seem to be driven by a combination of self-interest and a sense of the common good. In particular, many richer individuals viewed higher spending on education as in the national interest even if they did not believe that their own household would directly benefit from this." Richer people seemed inclined to favour higher spending on health and education even when financed through income-related taxes.

The study found that parents who send their children to private schools seem to be most supportive of improvements in the state education system. This, it is suggested, was because they had opted only reluctantly for private schooling, feeling that they had been faced with little choice.

☐ The Adam Smith Institute's Budget submission published today urges the Chancellor to abolish or phase out capital gains tax, end inheritance tax, reduce excise duties on alcohol and extend childcare tax relief to small employers. The institute also advocates tax relief on home improvements that increase living space. This, it says, would decrease the need for expanding families to move and reduce pressure on the green belt.

Pennington, page 29

Dawson confident despite a 13% fall

By Sarah Cunningham

DAWSON INTERNATIONAL, the knitwear group best known for Pringle cashmere sweaters, suffered a 13 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £7.3 million in the six months ended September 28. There was a 3 per cent fall in sales to £154.3 million from £168.6 million.

Derek Finlay, chairman, said yesterday that despite the latest profits dip: "The turnaround at Dawson International is now proceeding on course."

He said sales of Pringle's new Faldo collection are going well and that the main cause of the fall in group sales in the first half was a slow start to the winter season in America, where the discount stores have been slow to take delivery from JE Morgan, its thermal underwear subsidiary.

Mr Finlay said that retail sales of the goods are going well, "so we expect to see full delivery of orders in hand".

Construction of a cashmere dehairing plant in Baotou, Inner Mongolia, has begun. It is intended to protect the group's long-term supply of top-quality Chinese raw white cashmere.

Earnings fell to 3.1p a share from 3.8p but the interim dividend has been held at 1.5p, payable on January 10. Net debt was reduced by £9.5 million year-on-year to £74.3 million. Net gearing was pulled back to 50 per cent from 54 per cent.

TONY WHITE

Derek Finlay, chairman, with Davina Kruse, a model, dressed in part of the company's latest Pringle range

National Power warns of big reduction in output

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

NATIONAL POWER yesterday gave warning of a substantial fall in its output and disclosed a £57 million charge for its abortive attempt to buy a regional electricity company.

The country's largest generator, which earlier this year was forced to sell off 4,000 megawatts of power stations, said that its output would fall by 20 per cent by the end of its financial year in March as the generating market becomes more competitive. Its one-off charge for the blocked move on Southern Electric cut pre-tax profits for the half year to September 30 by 24 per cent, to £194 million. Most of the charge — £52 million — came from depreciation of a stake that National Power took in Southern Electric before the Government barred a takeover.

However, the generator had happier experiences with overseas operations, which, after some time of low delivery, have started to show profit growth. At the halfway stage, international activities contributed £23 million to profits, up from £6 million for 1995.

Keith Henry, chief executive, said that National Power's international interests were starting to deliver what they had promised. The company has predicted a contribution of £70 million for the full year and £145 million for the following year.

National Power spent more than £600 million on overseas projects last year. Such spending is unlikely to be repeated in the short term, but the company is committed to having 40 per cent of its assets overseas by the end of the decade. At present, direct ownership of overseas plant amounts to about 16 per cent of National Power assets.

In the UK, the company aims to maintain a market share of between 20 and 23 per cent as more electricity is generated by other companies. In the period to September 30, however, its market share was 27 per cent.

After the veto by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, of both National Power's bid for Southern Electric and PowerGen's bid for Midlands Electricity, National Power is resigned to a domestic market in which little growth is possible. However, Mr Henry said that talks were progressing with a couple of regional companies to join forces before 1998 and the opening of the domestic market to competition.

The interim dividend, payable on January 14, rises by 11 per cent, to 6p.

IoD rules out public support for Tories

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S company directors want the Conservatives to win the general election, leaders of the Institute of Directors said yesterday as they launched their pre-election business manifesto.

But in spite of acknowledging the political preference of most of its members, the IoD refused to give public support to the Conservatives.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, who will address the IoD's annual dinner next week, believes that business should not attempt to maintain a position of political neutrality in the run-up to the election, but should fully support the Conservatives as the party best suited to it.

Tim Melville-Ross, the IoD's Director-General, accepted yesterday that the institute's refusal to give support to any particular political party would disappoint Mr Lang and other ministers.

While he insisted that the IoD would work with any elected government, he acknowledged that most of the institute's 37,000 company-director members were likely to be Conservative supporters and that they would want the party to continue its post-1979 unbroken run.

Ministers are likely to be particularly annoyed that the free-market IoD felt unable publicly to support the Conservatives' re-election, particularly since its leaders acknowledge privately that most of the measures it is seeking in its business manifesto and a special version for small firms are in the main closely in line with the Conservatives' policy agenda.

Emphasising that business competitiveness is the key to Britain's future prosperity, the IoD said that the next government should maintain a stable economy, stay out of a single currency "for the foreseeable future", retain Britain's opt-out from the EU social chapter and resist other European social law, reject a minimum wage and continue to minimise regulations.

Ford drops BDDP as agency

By Jason Nissé

BDDP, the Anglo-French advertising group that GGT Group is buying for £105 million, has been hit by the defection of an account worth $50 million a year.

Wells Rich Greene, the New York agency that GGT describes as the jewel in BDDP's crown, has lost the corporate advertising account for Ford, the motor group. The business, which has annual revenues of $50 million and generates an estimated profit of $6 million, has gone to Ogilvy & Mather, which is part of WPP Group.

The loss comes at an embarrassing time for GGT. Mike Greenlees, its chief executive, and Mark Baylis, its finance director, have been touring institutional investors drumming up backing for the BDDP merger, which will triple GGT's size.

The advertising group proposes to finance the deal through a rights issue, raising more than £55 million, and its shares have been suspended because of the size of the deal.

The loss of the Ford account will more than wipe out the benefits GGT has been promising from moving Wells Rich Greene's Manhattan offices to less expensive accommodation.

BDDP recently completed the buyout of Financial Dynamics, the UK public relations firm, in a deal which gave senior staff bonus payments of £300,000 each.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	18.71	17.21
Belgium Fr	54.84	50.54
Canada $	2.354	2.194
Cyprus Cyp£	0.798	0.743
Denmark Kr	10.24	9.44
Finland Mkk	8.18	7.51
France Fr	8.90	8.25
Germany Dm	2.67	2.46
Greece Dr	413	388
Hong Kong $	13.58	12.58
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.71	5.08
Italy Lira	2635	2480
Japan Yen	200.70	184.70
Malta	0.633	0.578
Netherlds Gld	2.974	2.744
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	11.14	10.34
Portugal Esc	265.50	247.00
S Africa Rd	8.35	7.55
Spain Pta	218.00	205.00
Sweden Kr	11.74	10.94
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.07
Turkey Lira	172000	164000
USA $	1.774	1.644

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

OFT delays ruling on Northern Electric

THE Office of Fair Trading has delayed deciding whether a hostile takeover of Northern Electric by CE Electric, of America, should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The OFT has extended its consideration period by 15 days, to December 16. Doubts over whether the takeover will be allowed arise largely from the poor credit rating of CalEnergy, the majority partner in CE Electric. Political doubts also surround both this bid and the agreed bid by Dominion Resources, of Virginia, for East Midlands Electricity, given the proximity of a general election.

Entergy, the US utility based in New Orleans, yesterday ended speculation that it was about to launch a bid for London Electricity, confirming that the two companies had held exploratory talks but saying that discussions had now ended. Patrick Sweeney, a spokesman for the US utility, refused to say on what grounds the talks had failed. London Electricity offered a similarly terse response.

Go-ahead for Go-Ahead

GO-AHEAD, the bus and train operator, has been shortlisted to tender for the ThamesLink rail franchise through Govia, a joint venture with VIA-GTI, the multinational transport group in France. ThamesLink is regarded as one of the most lucrative franchises, carrying commuters between Brighton and Bedford via the centre of London. Go-Ahead recently won the London-Hereford Thames Trains franchise, which takes in Oxford and Gatwick. It is also the second largest private bus operator in London.

Network prices to fall

PRICES paid by Mercury Communications, the cable companies and other telecommunications operators for using British Telecom's network will fall by 12 per cent over last year, Oftel, the industry regulator, said yesterday. The watchdog said that the reduction "reflects the downward movement of costs in telecommunications". However analysts said that the reduction will have only a small effect on BT's income and potential savings for competitors.

Expansion hits Eidos

EIDOS, the computer games developer, returned sales of £20.5 million (£26,000) in the half year to September 30, after a full six-month contribution from Centregold, which it bought for £17 million in March. However, the expansion also brought pre-tax losses to an expected £4.71 million (£364,000 loss) after much higher administration expenses and heavy redundancy costs stemming from the acquisition. Losses were 38.4p per share (0.13p loss). There is again no dividend.

Bunce in shares spree

MARK BUNCE, chief executive of Country Casuals, the fashion retailer, has bought 75,000 shares in the company at 68p a share, a total cost of £51,000. The move came a day after the company gave warning that its annual profits would be "materially below forecasts" after a "significant deterioration" in trading at two of its divisions since its interim results were reported on October 9. The shares fell from 100p to 64p on Tuesday, but finished up 8p, at 72p, yesterday.

Abbey in private bank

ABBEY NATIONAL, the former building society turned bank, yesterday launched an international private banking operation in a joint venture with Hambros Bank and Dah Sing Financial Holdings, a Hong Kong company. The DAH Private Bank will provide private banking services and investment advice to clients with liquid assets of more than £150,000. Abbey National and Hambros are to invest £6.6 million each in the new venture.

Tax appeals reform plea

BRITISH tax appeals involve a baffling maze of provisions that need overhauling, according to the Tax Law Review Committee. In the direct tax field, the committee believes that there must be reform to equip the appeals tribunals that self-assessment will bring. The committee's recommendations include improvements in selecting members to local tribunals in direct tax appeals and changes in the way appeals are allocated in the High Court to ensure a core of judges with tax experience.

Seasonal slowdown

VCI, the video, book and audio publishing group, said that the Christmas shopping season had so far been slower than last year. The company said that in the first ten months of this year trade was ahead of expectations, but since then, "the early indications are that the critical Christmas shopping season has been slower than last year to gather full momentum in the markets in which we operate". VCI added that it was still confident that its objectives for 1996 were achievable.

Candle firm creates jobs

A £16 million investment by an American-owned candle firm is to create 260 jobs in Britain, it was announced yesterday. CCW Manufacturing will open a new factory in Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, making speciality candles for the European market. The investment, the largest by an overseas firm in Cumbria for 20 years, includes a government grant of nearly £1 million.

Public Consultation

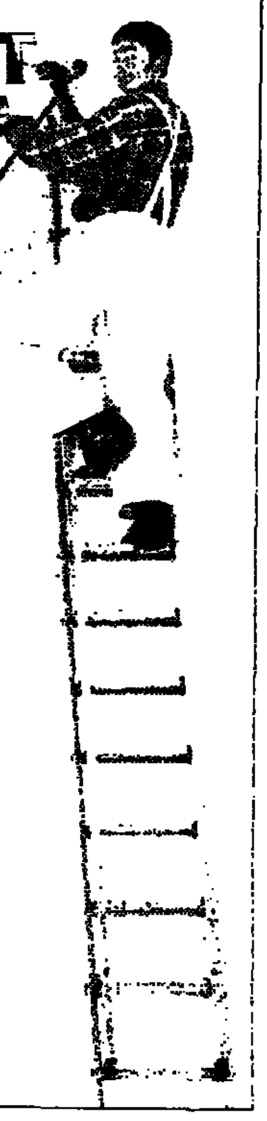
Control of Regional Television Licences
by United News & Media

The Independent Television Commission is inviting public comment on whether the continued holding of the regional Channel 3 licences for the South and South-East of England by Meridian Broadcasting Limited and for the East of England by Anglia Television Limited, which are controlled by United News & Media (UN&M), operates against the public interest. The issue arises because UN&M also controls The Express, The Express on Sunday (formerly The Sunday Express) and the Daily Star, and certain local newspapers which circulate in the East of England (Anglia TV) region.

The matters to which the ITC must have regard in reaching a determination on this issue include: the desirability of promoting plurality of ownership and diversity in sources of information, certain economic benefits specifically resulting from the merger, and the effect of the merger on the proper operation of the broadcasting and newspaper markets.

Further details are contained in a press release available from the ITC. Comments should be sent to the Secretary, ITC, 33 Foley Street, London W1P 7LB by 13 December.

ITC
Independent Television Commission



CABLE & WIRELESS & SATELLITE & FIBRE OPTICS & MOBILE & DIGITAL & BROADBAND & ENTERTAINMENT & INTERNET

Maybe we should expand our name.

After all, we're certainly developing our worldwide business.

Cable & Wireless has delivered a strong competitive performance during the first half of the year. We have achieved impressive headline growth with turnover ahead by 14% and efficiency has continued to improve, with operating margins up 2%. Cash flow increased by £22[illegible] million and exceeded the billion pound mark for the first time.

As indicated by the financial results, Cable & Wireless - operating in over 50 countries - maintains its drive to be a world leader in communications technology and customer service. The past six months have seen major developments for the company.

In the UK we announced our intention to form a new company, Cable & Wireless Communications, from a merger of the operations of Mercury Group, Nynex CableComms Group, Bell Cablemedia and Videotron Holdings. Cable & Wireless Communications will be able to provide fixed and mobile telephone, broadband data transmission, entertainment, Internet access and interactive services in a single integrated package.

In Germany we announced that our alliance with VEBA will be strengthened by a further partnership with the utilities company RWE to realign our position in Europe's biggest telecommunications market.

In Australia, Optus delivered impressive results four and a half years after start-up, and is now in a strong position to capitalise on its position in a rapidly growing environment.

In Hong Kong, AsiaSat reported record half-year profits, and looked forward to further growth over the full year. The £61 million raised by the disposal of a 10% share in AsiaSat as part of the company's flotation on the New York and Hong Kong stock exchanges demonstrates our continued ability to realise value from our investments.

INTERIM REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1996

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Turnover of the company and its subsidiaries	£2,942m	+9%
Turnover including share of associates	£3,401m	+14%
Operating profit	£746m	+17%
Pre-tax profit excluding exceptional items	£673m	+9%
Earnings per share excluding exceptional items	14.3p	+10%
Interim dividends per share	3.4p	+10%

[illegible]

CABLE & WIRELESS

☐ Robinson's no-sale strategy vindicated ☐ Tokyo's Big Bang could benefit investors ☐ Economy does not need fiscal boost

Real life begins at Forte

☐ IN some cases, the share price tells its own story. Granada Group's hostile takeover bid for Forte was launched a year ago tomorrow. The market took fright, as markets will when faced with the unexpected, and sent Granada's share price back from just sort of £7 to below 650p.

The fear was, rightly, that Granada would have to pay more than the £3.3 billion then offered and, quite wrongly, that Gerry Robinson would overpay, overstretch his balance sheet and end up another victim of 1980s-style corporate ambition.

A year later the market reacted to a superb set of figures from Granada by sending the shares into reverse again — not by so much, and this time on the wild suggestion that the group would shortly be moving to take over the debt-plagued French caterer Accor. Over the previous year two more unexpected things have also happened. Granada shares have climbed by almost 40 per cent, a staggering rise for a FT-SE 100 company, and Mr Robinson, contrary to pledges made at the time of the bid, has sold only one of Forte's upmarket Exclusive hotels.

Those promises were made to assuage the City's fears over the £4 billion of debt the Forte purchase left Granada nursing. This column suggested then that Mr Robinson might not be too keen to sell. Since then the market has seemingly shaken off its fear of Granada's debt, still £3.5 billion, and those properties have risen sharply in value. For example, the Hyde Park that went for £86 million this week had a book value of just £70 million. Now scale that increase up to take in the entire Exclusive business, book value at the time of the bid £780 million.

Yesterday's figures show why Mr Robinson should indeed not have been in any hurry to sell, over and above that asset appreciation. The £100 million in savings promised from Forte's business could be surpassed — Granada is already £40 million of the way there, ahead of schedule. The figures show the potential still achievable — occupancy rates for London and UK provincial hotels, at 86 and 72 per cent, are not that special, yet those hotels have achieved 29 and 19 per cent profits increases respectively.

The clear conclusion is that the Forte business was still being very badly run several years into the much-vaunted efficiency programme initiated by Sir Rocco Forte. This was what the City believed, even if fund managers were publicly pilloried for selling out to Granada.

Still to come is a profitable demerger of the TV interests, which Mr Robinson significantly did not rule out in due course — a couple of years, perhaps, always assuming the taste of the markets has not by then turned back in favour of conglomerates. The dip in the share price yesterday, accompanied by figures so far ahead of expectations, suggests the City has not yet taken into account the benefits still to come. When it does, the share price will surely rise again.

Japan's tiddlers overtake the whales

☐ WHICH is the world's biggest bank, in terms of assets under management? Come on, come on, no conferring. No, not the recently merged Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi. The biggest bank, by that measure, is the Japanese Post Office, an odd fact indicative of the chronically protected and antiquated financial regime in Tokyo. Now we are promised Japan's Big Bang, although cynics wonder how sweeping the changes will be.

But one has already happened. From the start of this year Japanese pension funds have been allowed to buy OTC, or Over The Counter, stocks, the fastest-growing sector of the moribund Japanese stock market. The OTC was set up 15 years ago as a junior exchange for smaller, fast-growth companies. Bureaucracy, and a Japanese passion for planned investment, had tended to funnel funds towards the big banks and industrial groups that make up the main stock market. Smaller companies had been deprived of capital, at least until main market faltered in the early 1990s. Since then Japanese OTC companies have managed 7 to 8 per cent annualised earnings increases. While share prices have shot up, earnings multiples still compare favourably with the first-line companies. For a comparison, OTC companies sell on 37 times' this year's earnings — relax, this is Japan, such numbers are normal here — while the equivalent of our FT-SE 100 are on a multiple of 48.

Reseach by Invesco, which runs the Japan Discovery Trust specialising in smaller stocks, shows that the bottom half of the Tokyo exchange, including the OTC market, now has a quoted value bigger than the entire Hong Kong market and not far short of the Swiss stock exchange. OTC companies by their nature tend to be in growth areas such as the service industries, telecoms, multimedia and specialist retail.

As well as the pension funds, the smaller investors are coming in — these are now 40 per cent invested in the OTC and just 20 per cent in the major stocks. If something approaching Big Bang happens in Tokyo, this will at the least cut such investors' dealing costs and allow them to increase that weighting.

Warning signs, for any Chancellor

☐ THE last batch of economic figures before next Tuesday's Budget could not be sending a clearer signal to a Chancellor.

A Lawson-style pre-election give-away is the last thing this economy needs. In October, unemployment plunged, inflation jumped, retail spending continued rising, tax receipts reached bumper proportions and the money supply surged as banks and building societies found consumers and companies keen to borrow. Beware of panickers who draw comparison with the boom conditions of the late 1980s.

We are not seeing anything like that kind of overheating. But this economy is rolling along perfectly nicely without a big fiscal boost. If it were not for the prospect of an election, the idea of tax cuts wouldn't even figure.

The Chancellor has long been urging his more excitable colleagues to rely on a steady improvement in the economy to bring back the feel good factor rather than tax sweeteners.

Now, the economy is delivering in spades and tax cuts look not only cynical but increasingly dangerous. They would go down very badly with the financial markets, and the price would inevitably be paid in higher interest rates. The only way the Chancellor can stop the bandwagon for tighter money getting out of hand, sterling soaring and everyone suffering is to continue his highly effective practice of delivering political aplomb and no substance on Budget day.

Polls apart

☐ THE Institute for Fiscal Studies has turned up an apparent paradox: the public wants higher government spending even if this means taxes have to rise, but most people think their own tax bill is already too high. The same paradox preceded the last election, and explains why the pollsters' forecasts were so badly wrong. Try this simple experiment. Approach the man or woman in the street, clutching clipboard, and ask if they want better hospitals and schools. Then ask them, in the anonymity of the polling booth, whether they wish to pay for them.

C&W may cut stake in HK Telecom

By Eric Reguly

CABLE AND WIRELESS would consider reducing its stake in Hongkong Telecom and sees the merit in making One-2-One, the mobile phone company, part of its new cable group, Dick Brown, chief executive, said yesterday.

Mr Brown, the American executive who replaced James Ross in the summer, said that determining the strategy of 58 per cent-owned Hongkong Telecom, C&W's biggest company, is a priority before the colony reverts to Chinese control in June.

Analysts have suggested that C&W may reduce its holding in Hongkong Telecom in exchange for greater access to China, the world's fastest growing telecoms market. "If done correctly, that may well make sense," Mr Brown said.

It is known that regional and national Chinese telephone companies are putting pressure on C&W to give them a link with Hongkong Telecom, which has a monopoly on Hong Kong's international telephone traffic. Analysts said that C&W could appease them by selling them a stake in Hongkong Telecom.

C&W, however, wants to retain control of HongKong Telecom, which accounts for about two-thirds of the group's operating profit. The question is whether C&W would have effective control if its holding slips below 50 per cent.

Mr Brown said that C&W's other priority is to complete the integration of Mercury Communications, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W, with Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron, the three cable companies. The new group, to be called Cable and Wireless Communications, will be 53 per cent owned by C&W and is to be floated.

Mr Brown said there are compelling reasons to make One-2-One, which is owned equally by C&W and US West, the American cable and media company, part of C&W Communications. "I've said that no wireline company on earth can do without wireless capability," he said.

C&W reported a pre-tax profit, excluding exceptional items, of £673 million in the half-year to September 30, up 9 per cent, on turnover of £2.94 billion, also up 9 per cent. The results were in line with analysts' forecasts. A 29 per cent rise in Mercury's operating profits, to £130 million, were behind the earnings rise.

Earnings per share before exceptionals were 14.3p against 13p and the interim dividend, to be paid on February 28, rises 10 per cent to 3.4p.

Tempus, page 30

Health firm seeks £45m to fund deal

By Eric Reguly

BIOCOMPATIBLES, the fast-growing medical materials and coatings company, plans to raise £45.5 million in a rights issue, its fourth cash call since last year, to help to fund its latest acquisition.

The four-for-23 rights issue at 500p a share brings the amount raised since 1995, when the company was floated on the London Stock Exchange, to about £85 million. The shares, floated at 170p, closed at 602½p, up 21½p.

Biocompatibles said that most of the new money will be used to fund the purchase of Divysios Solutions, a Canadian company that develop stents, the devices placed in contricted blood vessels to keep them open. Biocompatibles estimates the global stent market at US$1 billion a year.

Biocompatibles will pay Divysios an initial US$14 million. Divysios will use the cash to subscribe to the rights issue.

AA
JOIN NOW FROM JUST £39
To join, call free now on
0800 444 445
and ask for extension [illegible]. Immediate cover available.

Apta agrees £13m bid by Exceler

By Martin Barrow

THE consolidation of the private nursing home sector gathered pace yesterday with a £13.4 million agreed bid for Apta Healthcare by Exceler Health Care, the UK subsidiary of Sun, of America.

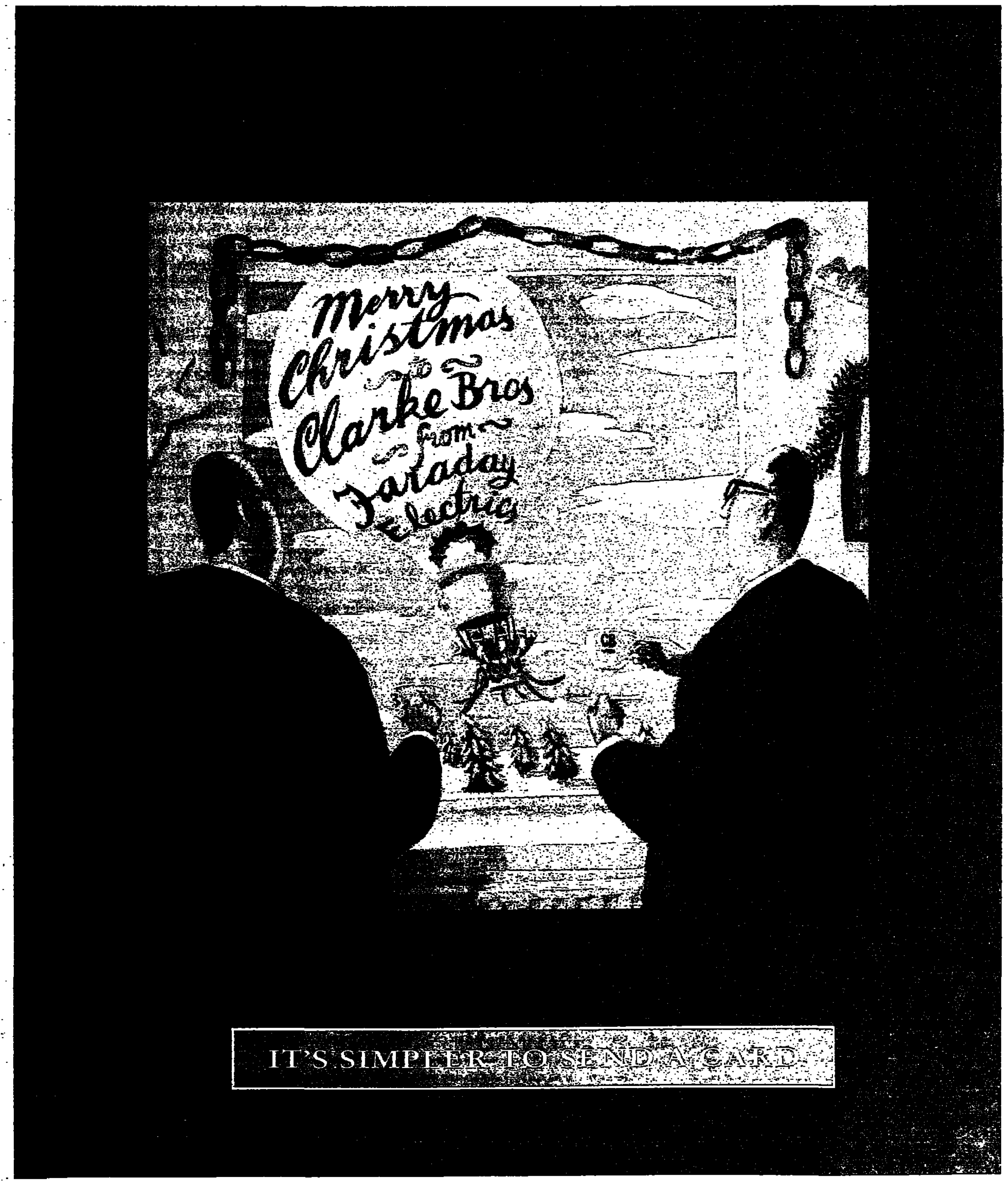
The combined business will rank among Britain's top five nursing home companies. Apta operates 33 nursing and residential support homes with 1,294 registered beds. Exceler operates 43 homes with 2,123 beds.

Exceler is offering 17½p for each Apta share, against yesterday's unchanged stock market price of 16¾p. The offer represents a 7.7 premium to the closing price on November 14, the last day before Apta announced it was in talks with a potential bidder.

The bidder has received irrevocable undertakings from directors of Apta and other investors to accept the offer in respect of 57 per cent of the ordinary shares and 26 per cent of the warrants.

In the year to April 30 Apta earned pre-tax profits of £1.5 million on turnover of £11.79 million. Net assets were £10.49 million at April 30. Since the last financial year-end Apta has acquired three homes with a total of 47 beds at a cost of £1.57 million and entered into operating leases in respect of a further three homes containing 179 beds.

Sun, a US provider of long-term and specialist care, operates 153 care homes with about 18,700 beds.


Merry Christmas to Clarke Bros from Faraday Electric
IT'S SIMPLER TO SEND A CARD

If you run a small business and you'd like to say "Thank You" to your customers this Christmas, a card is the best way to get your message across.

It provides a nice personal touch that's warm and friendly without being over the top. And, unlike a business card which usually goes straight into the bottom of a drawer or the waste-paper bin, your card will be a thoughtful reminder of your services right up to Twelfth Night.

Post your cards (using our colourful festive stamps) and Royal Mail could help your company to have a more prosperous New Year.

A card makes everyone's Christmas.

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Railtrack shares enjoy a whistle-stop ride

Gordon Campbell, left, and Howard Evans of Courtaulds

A TWO-WAY pull has developed in shares of **Railtrack**, which has been one of the big success stories for investors among the top 100 companies so far this year.

The price enjoyed a whistle-stop ride yesterday as almost 8.5 million shares changed hands. The share price climbed 23p to a new high of 344p on the back of positive comments from NatWest Securities, the broker. That compares with the 190p the shares were floated at in May after privatisation. Behind the rise has been the hidden strength of the group's property portfolio which has come to be realised since the summer.

NatWest said interim figures demonstrated that Railtrack was ahead of expectations in terms of operating performance, cost reduction, property portfolio value and cash generation. It has raised its pre-tax profits forecast for 1997 by £5 million to £305 million and for 1998 by £10 million to £340 million.

But Credit Lyonnais Laing, a rival broker, takes the view the price has run far enough and is vulnerable to the imposition of a windfall tax by a Labour government. It urges clients to switch into the water utilities which, by comparison, are undervalued and offer a better return.

Water shares were finding the going difficult yesterday with falls recorded in **Anglian**, 9p to 567½p, **United Utilities**, 4½p to 602½p, and **Wessex**, 3p to 367½p.

Wall Street's overnight record-breaking run had only a temporary effect on London where share prices gave up an early 10.9 lead to close lower on the day. A setback for gilts on the back of some worse than expected money supply figures pulled the rug from under investors and effectively scuppered any remaining hopes they might have had that the Chancellor might peg interest rates. October retail sales also indicated that inflationary pressures were continuing to grow.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 ended 15.3 points down at 3,962.8 as total turnover reached 712 million shares.

Eurotunnel slipped another 2p to 86p, reflecting the delay in re-opening the link after this week's fire. Fears are growing that services could be disrupted for months while repairs are made. **WH Smith** bounced back with a rise of 11p at 439½p. The shares were hit on Tuesday by claims that the group was about to issue a gloomy trading update.

British Energy rose 2½p to 135½p on hopes for a positive performance when the group unveils figures this morning. Brokers such as NatWest Securities are looking for pre-tax profits of £25 million. The rumoured dawn raid for **Imperial Tobacco** failed to materialise, leaving the price 7½p off at 364p. Imps has been the subject of intense speculation since being demerged from Hanson earlier this year. **BAT Industries**, 3p easier at 435p, has been mentioned as a prospective suitor.

Granada pleased the City with better than expected first-half figures and a progress report on the integration of Forte. Brokers are now looking to upgrade their profit estimates for the full year. They are also confident the group can sell its chain of exclusive hotels for more than the current book value of £800 million. But the group denied plans to demerge parts of the business. Suggestions that it intended to buy Accord, the French hotel chain, were also denied. But the damage had been done and the shares finished 10p lower at 882½p.

The profits setback at **National Power** was worse than expected and the shares finished 18p lower at 435p. Half-year profits towards the top end of expectations at **Cable and Wireless** failed to cut much ice with brokers and the price slipped 1½p to 481½p.

Northern Foods firmed 2½p to 198p after coming in with a better than expected performance at the halfway stage. But the market was unimpressed with the profits setback at **Courtaulds**, where Gordon Campbell is chief executive. The price was 4p off at 420p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, lowered its recommendation from "hold" to "reduce".

Country Casuals clawed back some of Tuesday's fall stemming from a profits warning with a rise of 8p at 72p. Mark Bunce, chief executive, has decided to take advantage of the setback to top up his holding. He has picked up 75,000 at 68p.

Scruttons extended this week's lead with a rise of 5p to 320p. It is 21 per cent owned by ***Ropner Holdings***, down 3p at 115½p, which has received a bid approach from **Jacobs**, unchanged at 71½p. As part of its on-going restructuring, Scruttons plans to float its security division on the Alternative Investment Market.

Exeter Investment took its place on the AIM after a placing by Greig Middleton, the broker, at 90p. The shares ended the session at 97½p, a premium of 7½p.

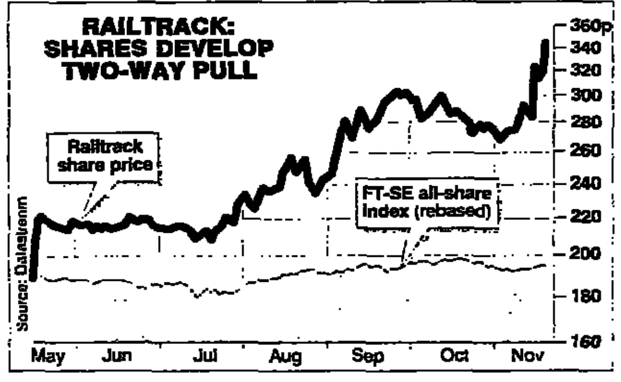
News that **TT Group**, 2p firmer at 318½, had acquired 4.75 million shares, or 8.5 per cent, lifted **Roxboro Group** 21p to 159½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A sharper than expected rise in the October money supply figures brought the bond market's recent rally to a screeching halt and sent investors scurrying for cover. Prices in London opened sharply lower, reflecting similar moves by bunds after the latest rise in the German IFO business sentiment index, which effectively rules out further Bundesbank cuts in interest rates. The domestic retail sales enabled prices in London to close off the bottom, with falls stretching to £1¼ in places.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt dropped £$\frac{5}{16}$ to £110¼ as a total of 80,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £$\frac{9}{32}$ lower at £102$\frac{19}{32}$, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shed three ticks at £102$\frac{15}{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US stocks were higher half way through the early trading session. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 29.44 points to 6,427.04.

The speculators were out in force yesterday driving up Sears, the Selfridges to Freemans mail order retailer, 3p to 93p as more than 11 million shares changed hands. The price is still below the high for the year of 104½p, with whispers in the Square Mile suggesting that the group is linning up another disposal.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6427.04 (+29.44)
S&P Composite 743.93 (+1.77)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 21189.96 (-233.78)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 13167.16 (+110.23)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 606.59 (-2.87)

Sydney:
AO 2392.7 (+26.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2774.50 (+10.41)

Singapore:
Straits 2194.28 (+24.10)

Brussels:
General 10254.95 (-3.03)

Paris:
CAC-40 2233.39 (-6.66)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 822.00 (-0.50)

London:
FT 30 2784.9 (-12.9)
FT 100 3962.8 (-15.3)
FTSE Mid 250 4400.2 (-0.1)
FTSE 350 1974.2 (-6.0)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 1828.66 (+3.86)
FT All-Share 1948.57 (-5.51)
FT Non Financials 2040.16 (-6.14)
FT Fixed Interest 116.41 (-0.12)
FT Govt Secs 94.28 (-0.38)
Bargains 38540
SEAQ Volume 723.2m
USM (Datastrm) 201.06 (-0.43)
US$ 1.6768 (+0.0015)
German Mark 2.5110 (-0.0063)
Exchange Index 92.0 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.3033
£:SDR 1.1476
RPI 153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Barrasford	7½	+ ½
Beaufort (3)	4¼	...
Beechcroft	4	...
Brands Hatch Leis	170½	- 2
Britt Allcroft	159½	...
Charles Taylor	168½	+ 2
Corp Exec Search (3)	4½	...
Deep Sea Leis (160)	162½	...
Druid Grp	280	- 5½
Exeter Inv	97½	...
First Russian Frts C	597½	- 12½
Geo Interactive Md	94½	...
Healthcare Reform	99½	...
Jardinerie Int (114)	122½	...
John David Sports	298½	...
Limelight	174½	...
Loftus Road (72)	69½	- 1½
Majestic Wines	212½	+ 2
Mears Group	11¼	...
Mondas (75)	90½	...
Oriental Restaurants	231½	...
Provend	132½	...
Scot Highland Htls	138½	+ 2
Second St David Inc	110½	...
Second St David Res	10	...
Second St David Z Pf	183¼	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

AG Holdings n/p	10½	...
Arcadian Intl n/p (45)	2	...
Bridport-Gundry n/p	1¼	...
Capital Shop 625% n/p	1½	...
Springwood n/p	74½	...
Stakis n/p (82)	5¼	+ ½
Vision Gp n/p (235)	63½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Filtronic Com 262½p (+35p)
Porvair 232½p (+25p)
Jarvis Porter 230½p (+13p)
Capital Radio 561½p (+16p)
Photobition 380p (+13½p)
Mansfield 317½p (+10p)

FALLS:
Huntleigh Tech 195p (-14p)
Wagon Ind 297½p (-19p)
Allen 247½p (-10p)
Azlan 627½p (-22½p)
Fairey Group 643½p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Funding fancy fibres

COURTAULDS put on a brave face yesterday and told the market to stop whispering about rights issues. The half-year figures gave some comfort to the company. The huge outflow in working capital last year has been turned round and gearing is improved. At the same time the operational picture is better, with margins on the mend in acrylics and if demand for viscose has not improved, at least the wood pulp price has stabilised. Last year's volatility in raw material prices left the fibres business looking as vulnerable as a ball of yarn in the paws of an excited kitten.

Yet new problems loom: sterling could upset its UK cellulose export businesses, particularly cigarette filters. And the commodity fibres, acrylics and viscose, have yet to get back to the levels of high cash generation the company needs. Courtaulds is investing huge sums in future growth — principally Tencel, the product that could be producing £100 million of profit at peak sales of £400 million to £500 million in five years' time. It is those sort of numbers that drive the current share rating of 19 times forecast earnings, a level that would hardly be justified by the pedestrian performance of the rest of the business.

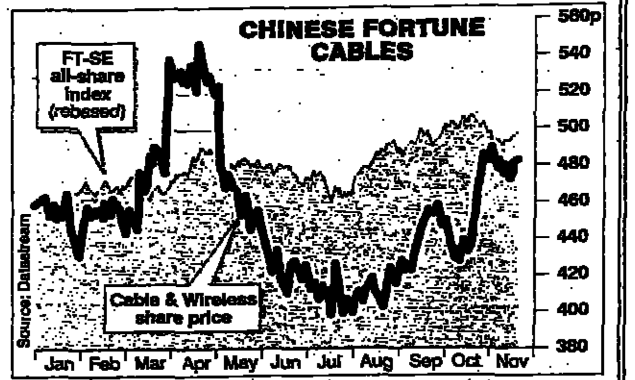
To achieve this, Courtaulds needs to turn Tencel into the next Lycra but the company lacks the resources of a Du Pont. At least another £200 million needs to be invested in manufacturing, not to mention the marketing and promotion needed to create a fashion trend. While Courtaulds is right to reject a share issue, it could do with an Asian partner. A deal that would provide cash and marketing knowhow without sacrificing control of Tencel technology might be just the ticket.

C&W

DICK BROWN is shaking up Cable and Wireless. Since the summer, when the American regional phone boss was installed as chief executive, he has strengthened the company's German alliance and negotiated a merger between Mercury Communications and three leading cable companies. The intention is to create a telecoms and media powerhouse.

Yet his greatest challenge is still to come. Hongkong Telecom still dominates C&W, which is under pressure to come up with a strategy for its stake in the Colony's phone company before the territory reverts to China in June. The outcome will determine whether C&W becomes a key player or an also-ran in the world's fastest growing phone market. HKT is coveted by the national and regional phone companies in China. They need HKT's lucrative international traffic and they want its new technology. Moreover, the Peking government would like to see greater Chinese ownership of the phone company.

C&W has to tread a narrow line between safeguarding HKT's commercial interests and pleasing Peking. One solution would be to trade equity in HKT for better access to the vast Chinese market. However, giving away too much could damage the whole C&W group and until the issue is resolved, C&W's long-term growth prospects remain in the balance.



FKI

FKI has come a long way since the dog days of the early 1990s, but now it needs another big deal. Yesterday's interim results from the engineering group show margins advancing once again, up a full percentage point from the same period last year. FKI is confident that it can work the same trick on the Hawker Siddeley electric power group, recently bought from BTR. More investment in new product development will help.

Management has done an impressive job wringing extra pounds from FKI's portfolio of largely mature businesses. Still, there must be doubts about how more can be achieved.

This is why FKI remains ambitious to make further (and bigger) acquisitions — ideally a badly managed nugget that is languishing unloved within an industrial giant. Since FKI's £137 million rights issue 18 months ago, the City has been expecting a big acquisition. With the company valued at more than £1.1 billion, the £182 million Hawker Siddeley deal is not big news.

However, with FKI making steady progress on most fronts, the shares, up 4½p to 203p yesterday, remain good value.

National Power

NATIONAL POWER'S home turf is looking less fertile, forcing attention onto the overseas operations.

Britain's biggest generator has, so far, little to show for its international expansion effort. However, yesterday it was able to demonstrate that its faith in foreign projects has not been entirely misplaced. Contributions from overseas operations amounted to £23 million for the half year and are on course to deliver £70 million by the year end. Furthermore, National Power reckons that it will more than double that figure by 1997/98. Overseas profits of that magnitude will produce an earnings-per-share contribution of 8p, against the full year's expected 2½p and the present half year's loss of 1½p.

Such profit projections are comforting. Sceptics feared that international generation projects are becoming too competitive, with prices well in excess of levels that would permit reasonable returns.

At home, the story is far more gloomy, and National Power has caused some concern with its downbeat predictions for market share.

Although the company parted with 4,000 megawatts of power station capacity earlier this year, the forecast that its output will fall by 20 per cent was much worse than expected by the market. With no obvious ways of growing the business at home, National Power must pin its hopes firmly on its overseas power stations.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA
Dec 965-972 Mar 1006-1007
Mar 929-927 May 1026-1017
May 947-944 Jul 1036-1025
Jul [illegible] Sep 1040-1035
Sep [illegible]
Dec [illegible] Volume: [illegible]

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)
Nov 1570-1556 Jul 1364-1362
Jan 1450-1444 Sep 1372-1360
Mar 1392-1390 Nov 1375-1360
May 1374-1370 Volume: [illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)
Reuters Oct [illegible]
Spot: 311.0 Dec [illegible]
Mar 304.0-304.0 Mar [illegible]
May 309.4-310 May [illegible]
Aug 309.2-[illegible] Volume: [illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 19
(p/kg lw) Pig Sheep Cattle
[illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)
Brent Physical 23.45 +0.30
Brent 15 day (Jan) 23.45 +0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb) 23.90 +0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jan) 24.30 +0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Feb) 23.90 +0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	226 (+4)	228 (+4)
Gasoil EEC	227 (+2)	230 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	117 (+5)	119 (+5)
Naphtha	225 (+1)	227 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL
Dec 223.75 SLR Mar 204.25-04.75
Jan 220.50-20.75 Apr 195.75 SLR
Feb 212.25-13.50 Vol: 15425

BRENT (6.00pm)
Jan 23.42-23.48 Apr 21.90 SLR
Feb 22.95-22.98 May unq
Mar 22.36-22.44 Vol: 42745

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)
Nov 94.35
Jan 96.35
Mar 98.25
May 99.50
Jul 100.75
Volume: 371

BARLEY (close £/t)
Nov 92.50
Jan 93.50
Mar 94.50
May 95.50
Sep 92.[illegible]
Volume: [illegible]

POTATO (£/t) Open Close
Mar [illegible]
Apr [illegible]
May [illegible]
Volume: 129

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Dec [illegible]

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)
[illegible]
Vol: 174 lots Open interest: [illegible]
Index 1475 [illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne) Cash: 2263.0-2264.0 3mth: 2217.5-2218.0 Vol: [illegible]
Lead ($/tonne) [illegible]
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne) 1059.0-1059.5 1080.5-1081.0
Tin ($/tonne) [illegible]
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne) 1486.5-1487.0 1505.5-1506.0
Nickel ($/tonne) [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 62212	Dec 96 Mar 97	4003.0 4017.0	4003.0 4017.0	3971.0 3995.0	3984.0 4002.0	10235 106
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4961	Dec 96 Mar 97				4411.0 4447.0	0 0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 517031	Dec 96 Mar 97 Jun 97	93.54 93.24 92.97	93.54 93.28 92.97	93.49 93.21 92.89	93.51 93.25 92.92	11347 21640 17338
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97 Jun 97	 99.19	 99.19	 99.16	99.36 99.19	0 60
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1102161	Dec 96 Mar 97	96.79 96.82	96.80 96.82	96.77 96.77	96.77 96.78	22206 33709
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 151247	Dec 96 Mar 97	110-22 109-28	110-22 109-28	109-31 109-11	110-08 109-18	90532 8042
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96 Mar 97	124.85 123.98	125.00 124.00	124.72 123.94	124.75 123.88	3520 1536
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 293285	Dec 96 Mar 97	101.27 100.24	101.28 100.24	100.70 99.75	100.88 99.93	235299 8977
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 28415	Dec 96 Mar 97	95.95 95.96	95.85 95.96	95.82 95.93	95.84 95.85	906 401
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 92286	Dec 96 Mar 97	98.01 97.99	98.01 98.00	97.90 97.86	97.92 97.89	7060 6307
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 112967	Dec 96 Mar 97	128.40 127.25	128.54 127.75	127.11 126.35	127.30 126.47	94101 3575

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5[illegible] Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 5[illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6; 3 mth 6[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth: 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5[illegible]-5[illegible]	6[illegible]-6	6-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates	6[illegible]-6	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]
Interbank:	6[illegible]-6	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]
Overnight: open 5[illegible], close 5[illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6[illegible]	6[illegible]	6[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	6[illegible]-6	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.30	n/a	5.38	5.42	5.51
Building Society CDs:	6[illegible]-6	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5[illegible]-4[illegible]	5[illegible]-5[illegible]	5[illegible]-5[illegible]	5[illegible]-5[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	3[illegible]-2[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]
French Franc:	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	1[illegible]-[illegible]	2-1[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $378.00-378.30 Close: $378.90-379.40 High: $379.45-379.95
Low: $378.00-378.50 AM: $378.60 PM: $379.10

Krugerrand: $378.00-381.00 (£225.25-227.25)

Platinum: $394.25 (£229.05) Silver: $4.96 (£2.955) Palladium: $119.50 (£70.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8102-2.8302	2.8102-2.8162	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Brussels	51.740-52.040	51.740-51.790	15-11pr	46-39pr
Copenhagen	9.6450-9.6600	9.6450-9.6535	2[illegible]-1[illegible]pr	7[illegible]-6[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9855-0.9909	0.9885-0.9904	5-1pr	20-15pr
Frankfurt	2.5110-2.5235	2.5110-2.5130	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-1[illegible]pr
Lisbon	253.56-255.17	253.55-253.86	[illegible]	[illegible]ds
Madrid	211.20-212.40	211.20-211.23	11-22ds	14-32ds
Milan	2510.3-2533.1	2510.3-2513.1	24-40ds	51-73ds
Montreal	2.2480-2.2562	2.2490-2.2515	0.02-0.05pr	0.126-0.117pr
New York	1.6769-1.6814	1.6768-1.6777	0.105-0.098pr	0.374-0.347pr
Oslo	10.583-10.624	10.583-10.592	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.4920-8.5330	8.4925-8.5002	2-1[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	11.067-11.117	11.067-11.094	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	186.35-186.96	186.35-186.57	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Vienna	17.669-17.762	17.669-17.696	[illegible]pr	1[illegible]-1[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.1221-2.1317	2.1221-2.1237	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2523-1.2531
Austria	10.53-10.54
Belgium (Com)	30.85-30.86
Canada	1.3418-1.3423
Denmark	5.7500-5.7530
France	5.0635-5.0655
Germany	1.4968-1.4978
Hong Kong	7.7319-7.7324
Ireland	1.6800-1.6820
Italy	1498.00-1498.75
Japan	111.15-111.25
Malaysia	2.5192-2.5202
Netherlands	1.6788-1.6794
Norway	6.3089-6.3109
Portugal	151.21-151.31
Singapore	1.4016-1.4021
Spain	125.90-126.00
Sweden	6.6050-6.6150
Switzerland	1.2644-1.2654

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6759-1.6786
Australia dollar	2.0987-2.1006
Bahrain dinar	0.6265-0.6385
Brazil real*	1.7347-1.7397
China yuan	13.753-14.053
Cyprus pound	0.7615-0.7715
Finland markka	7.540-7.656
Greece drachma	395.0-402.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.9587-12.9634
India rupee	59.43-60.39
Indonesia rupiah	3890.0-3958.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4955-0.5055
Malaysia ringgit	4.2232-4.2256
New Zealand dollar	2.3559-2.3592
Pakistan rupee	66.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.045-6.169
Singapore dollar	2.3484-2.3511
S Africa rand (com)	7.763-7.865
U A E dirham	6.0975-6.2215

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	105	Lloyds TSB	3,500
ASDA Gp	7,900	LucasVarity	3,700
Abbey Ntl	585	Marks Spr	2,900
Allied Dom	2,200	NatWst Bk	2,900
Argos	552	Nat Grid.	12,300
AB Foods	2,400	Nat Power	7,300
BAA	2,400	Next	2,500
BAT Inds	3,100	Orange	3,700
BOC	4,100	P & O	970
BP	5,300	Pearson	1,600
BSkyB	5,000	Pilkington	396
BTR	8,000	PowerGen	4,300
BT	12,500	*Prudential*	2,600
Bk of Scot	2,200	RMC	1,100
Barclays	3,700	RTZ	2,300
Bass	1,100	Railtrack	8,500
Blue Circle	1,000	Rank Group	2,000
Boots	1,400	Reckitt Col	1,400
BAe	695	Redland	1,400
BA	1,600	Reed Intl	1,700
Brit Gas	18,900	Rentokil	5,700
Brit Steel	3,900	Reuters	7,000
Burmah Cstl	499	Rolls Royce	4,700
Burton	5,300	Royal & Sun	3,200
Cable Wire	7,300	Royal Bk Sct	1,100
Cadbury	1,200	*Safeway*	2,700
Carlton Cms	253	Sainsbury	2,900
Cm Union	1,500	Schroders	73
Courtaulds	769	Scot & New	1,000
Dixons	868	Scot Power	3,400
EMI	1,900	Svrn Trent	605
Enterpr Oil	716	Shell Trans	3,400
GKN	774	Siebe	1,300
GRE	3,400	SmKl Bch	1,100
GUS	2,900	Smith Nph	9,300
Gen Acc	396	Smiths Inds	1,000
Gen Elec	6,800	Std Chartd	1,300
Glaxo Well	3,000	TI Gp	735
Granada	13,400	Tate & Lyle	473
Grand Met	7,700	Tesco	7,800
Guinness	4,400	Thames W	1,500
HSBC	991	Tomkins	1,600
Hanson	13,900	Unilever	646
ICI	1,700	Utd Utilities	706
Imp Tob	2,800	Utd News	770
Kingfisher	1,700	Vodafone	17,800
LASMO	743	Whitbread	1,500
Ladbroke	7,500	Wilms Hld	407
Land Secs	278	Wolseley	1,300
Legal & Gnl	3,900	Zeneca	1,200

WALL STREET

Nov 20 midday Nov 19 close

[illegible]

fibres

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cork pops for Breaky Bottom

THE new Lord Mayor of London loved the English "champagne" served at his presentation dinner so much, that he ordered another 20 cases.

Roger "Porky" Cork first tasted the home-grown sparkling wine at the Butchers Hall last month, where 60 City luminaries saw him presented formally to the Queen's representative. It hails from the curiously titled vineyard of Breaky Bottom, Lewes, where viniculturist Peter Hall has been making fine wines for 22 years.

Bulls and bears

A NOVEL way of predicting the future economic climate. Turn to "The Collins Bank of English", a database of current English speech and writing. Between 1989 and 1996, the words *bull market* occurred 2.3 times more than *bear market*. What's more, the bulls have shown an increase of late, with almost ten times as many references in 1995 as 1993. There has been a dramatic plunge this year, however, and Collins predicts the dip will continue. The bears have shown less severe fluctuations, and Collins sees a slight upturn for them in 1997.

Water sport

MIKE WALKER, head of policy at the Water Companies Association, deprived his neighbours of running water when he stuck a nail through a supply pipe. Having bought the flat next door to his palatial pad in Prince of Wales Drive, he chose last weekend to knock through the adjoining wall. As a result, a jet of water six-foot long shot acrosss his new bathroom. All Walker could say was: "It's a good job we weren't on a meter."

Cricket asset

HILL SAMUEL Asset Management will announce today its decision to sponsor Middlesex Cricket Club. The downside of the three-year deal, which will be worth more than £750,000, is that the team will have the Hill Samuel logo splashed across their shirts, sweaters, tracksuits, and training kit. A small price to pay, I'm sure.

Fitness battle

TWELVE helicopter lessons and a £1,000 necklace are up for grabs at the Broadgate Club today as City fitness teams battle it out. Companies will compete in five disciplines: a 200 metre swim , the ten metre air pistol shoot, the 100 metres row, five kilometres of cycling and the Bucking Bronco ride. Running on the treadmill has not been included. It was feared the runners might go too fast for the machine over a short distance. Jim Fox, Olympic gold medal winner, is organising the challenge, and all the proceeds will go to the Modern Pentathlon Association of Great Britain.

The Institute of Public Relations hosted a conference yesterday on "Ethical Values in Business Communications". Unbelievable? The chosen venue was The Salvation Army headquarters.

MORAG PRESTON

City gravy train promises a Christmas bonus bonanza

Robert Miller and Jon Ashworth on the culture of high risk, high reward

City bonuses are back with a vengeance. Between now and Christmas thousands of already highly paid executives will be told how much more they have earned in bonus payments for 1996, after a record year for company mergers and takeovers that have collectively generated fees of well above £1 billion.

What distinguishes this latest bout of generous bonuses for City high-flyers from previous occasions is a significant shift in emphasis from paying purely on results to the more common habit nowadays of making some part of the remuneration package guaranteed, regardless of results.

The Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) market is the most lucrative by far and generates hundreds of millions of pounds in fees — win or lose — for bankers, lawyers, public relations firms, headhunters who find the top players, and accountants. In the first nine months of this year, according to the respected *Acquisitions Monthly* magazine, a total of £42.6 billion was spent on 1,239 acquisitions, compared with 1,168 acquisitions valued at £40.3 billion in 1995. Management buyouts are also on the increase, with 280 deals worth £2.3 billion recorded between January and September.

On the back of these deals the participants can now expect to earn bonuses of between 100 per cent and 200 per cent of their salaries in some cases. Last year, for example, when M&A fees were £950 million, Barings, the merchant bank that crashed with debts of £830 million and was rescued for a nominal £1 by ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group, topped the City league table on takeovers and mergers with 26 deals worth £19.48 billion. These included advising Lloyds Bank on its £5.9 billion takeover of TSB Group.

The Barings success story in the M&A market was clouded by controversy, however, when it emerged that Andrew Tuckey, deputy chairman at the time of its crash, who subsequently resigned only to be taken on again as a corporate finance consultant, was in line to receive a bonus-enhanced remuneration package that was worth up to £500,000. This was something of a pay cut for Mr Tuckey, who in 1993 is believed to have earned a bonus of £1.4 million, on top of his salary of £237,000, and a pension contribution of £34,000.

But the real clue as to what can be earned in salary and bonuses by the top players in the corporate finance and M&A market was highlighted by two deals this year. In the first, Barclays lured the highly-rated Bill Harrison from Robert Fleming, where he was chief executive of investment banking, to become a director of the bank and chief executive of BZW, the global investment banking arm of Barclays.

In addition to a relatively modest £300,000 annual salary, Mr Harrison will be paid a 1996 guaranteed minimum bonus of £1.25 million, due at the end of next March. His guaranteed bonus for next year, payable in March 1998, is £900,000 in cash. This relates to Mr Harrison's first full year of employment with the Barclays Group. Further, he is to receive £600,000 of Barclays shares as part of an *executive award scheme linking* directors' remuneration with the performance of the group, and are made in equal tranches on the third, fourth and fifth anniversaries of the award date.

But dwarfing Mr Harrison's deal is last month's NatWest acquisition of J.O. Hambro Magan, the highly successful corporate finance boutique headed by George Magan. Analysts believe that the basic £20 million price tag could eventually top £150 million after 120 staff of the combined operation were locked in by "golden handcuffs". Some of the new contracts are said to be worth as much as £2 million for the best performers.

While NatWest Markets was spending money freely the *parent bank was under fire* from the 40,000 NatWest Staff Federation for scrapping the present bonus system, and replacing it with a new scheme which is "in line with the drive to a more performance-related culture", said the bank. After some 20,000 staff sent "protest" cards to Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, the bank did agree to delay full implementation to 1998 so that next year staff will have an element of their bonus, worth £80 million in 1995, guaranteed, but for the last time.

Employment experts say bonuses play a unique role in Britain. Salaries tend to be lower and bonuses higher, in contrast to the rest of Europe where fixed salaries are the norm. Cultural tensions were exposed by the wave of merg*ers involving Swiss Bank Cor*poration (SBC), Deutsche Bank and others. The Swiss and Germans demanded a move to fixed salaries on the ground that payrolls would be easier to monitor. The calls were rejected out of hand. SBC, which now owns Warburg, the London broker, recently announced that it had set aside a £70 million bonus pot to reward executives and senior traders.

London has returned to the established pattern of high risk, high reward, according to Ronnie Fox, senior partner of Fox Williams and an expert in contractual law. In the City, rewards tend to be tied closely to individual performance. Mr Fox, asked to advise on a bonus of £7 million for one City star, questioned what the recipient could possibly have done to command such a sum. The answer, he was told, was simple: the individual concerned had made the bank a profit of £42 million.

The inner practices of companies were laid uncomfortably bare in the case of John Clark, who was ousted as chief executive of BET after the takeover by Rentokil Initial earlier this year. He was subsequently awarded compensation of more than £3 million in the High Court — an award influenced by the level of bonuses he had come to expect. It was ruled that he was entitled to 50 per cent bonuses over the three-year term of his contract: about £735,000. It emerged that Sir Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, had received bonuses worth as much as 70 per cent in preceding years.

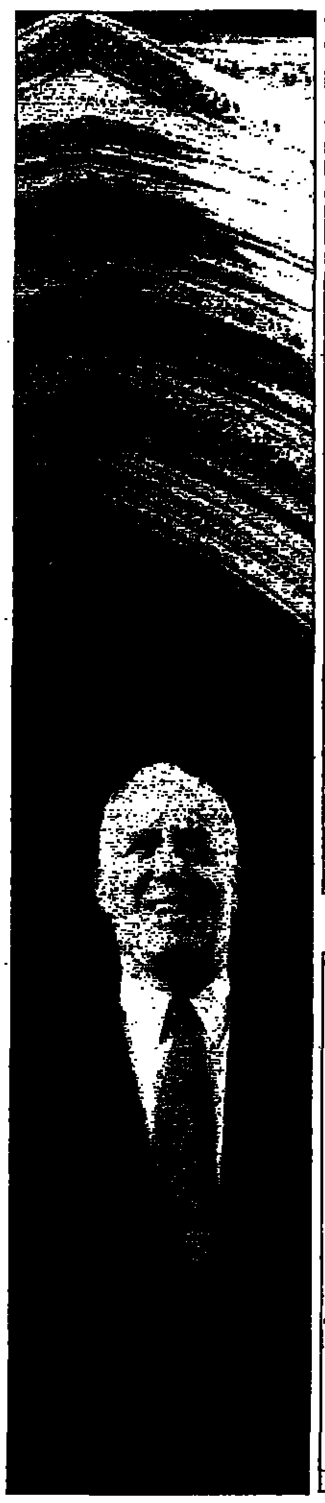
Geoff Tyler, the lawyer who acted for Mr Clark, said there had been a move away from large fixed salaries towards bonuses linked more directly to performance. Mr Tyler, *senior employment partner in* Biddle & Co, the City law firm, said performance was becoming an important factor in the remuneration of senior executives. New features include restrictive share award schemes, in which executives are awarded the equivalent of their bonus in shares, payable at some time in the future. This gives them even more of an incentive to make the share price perform.

Credit for one of the more unusual "bonus" arrangements of 1996 goes to Michael Hepher, who stepped down as managing director of BT in December. Mr Hepher, newly installed as chief executive of Charterhouse, remains on BT's payroll until August 1997, earning him an additional £700,000 on top of his Charterhouse package. Charterhouse said that Mr Hepher had not received any form of "golden hello" on joining the company.

Noel Howell of Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, yesterday strong*ly condemned the soaring* bonuses now being handed out to top City executives. He said: "The pay gap between fat cats and most ordinary staff is widening considerably. It seems that banks are paying ever larger bonuses just for some staff to stay, while some 120,000 jobs have been lost in the financial services sector since 1990. If banks want to pay bonuses [that's] fine, but it should be rewarding loyalty across the board and not just a privileged handful."

The City houses and merchant banks argue that to become top players in the markets in which they operate they have to recruit star performers. But that view is not shared by London's top regulator. Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, gave warning recently about the dangers of overpaying. He said: "Issues do arise about the balance between paying stars competitively in order to retain the best, on the one hand, and the risk of incentivising such people to behaviour that is harmful and can lead to serious damage, long-term, to the firm as a whole."

Bill Harrison: £1.25m bonus guaranteed by Barclays


Clark: £3m court award

Michael Hepher: £750,000 'windfall' from previous job

Andrew Large, SIB chairman, who fears excessive rewards culture carries risks

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Myth behind the idea of an unfettered global economy

Anita Roddick argues that the drive to deregulate free trade further is the last hurrah of an outdated theory

Last week the Government published a White Paper promoting global trade, which urged the abolition of all tariff barriers by 2020. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, called it "an idea whose time has come". I would argue that it's an idea whose time has gone.

Free trade holds much of the blame for continued international conflict. Markets are said to possess wisdom that is somehow superior to man. Those of us in business who travel in the developing world see the results of such Western wisdom, and have a rumbling disquiet about much of what our economic institutions have bought into. I'm writing from southern Mexico, where I see at first hand how destructive unrestrained economic growth can be, not just for the natural environment but also to human development.

According to the theory of free trade, *which I call* "licentious" trade, we should all be happy the globe is rapidly becoming a playground for those who can move capital and projects quickly from place to place. It's not easy challenging the unshakeable belief in the omnipotence of unfettered free trade — but it has to be done. Is the market really "free"? Free for whom, free for what? Freedom at any price? Or is the price of human rights abuses paid too high? Let me invoke Adam Smith, the grandfather of the concept, who argued that for free trade to flourish it was necessary to destroy monopolies of power and create accountability in business. But free trade as practised has been one of the greatest deceptions.

It is the idea of business accountability whose time has come and one that is recognised by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) among the growing voices speaking out against the grand free trade deception. By globalisation they understand that human beings need to be protected, not profits. NGOs are the voice of the otherwise unrepresented poor.

Christian Aid recently launched its "Change The Rules" campaign, highlighting how many Third World farmers producing food for Britain's supermarkets suffer unacceptably low wages, or work in dangerous and degrading conditions. Supermarkets have the money, muscle and mechanisms to guarantee a better deal for Third World producers. Christian Aid supports a Supermarket Charter for the Third World and independent monitoring of conduct.

Detractors would argue that the cost to supermarkets would simply be passed on. That's where thoughtful regulation comes in. Changing the rules is useless if the burden is simply passed on instead of shared.

We need to change the rules governing international trade. If businesses trying to improve their own ethical performance got together with organisations that understand the needs of people in poorer countries, perhaps we could all move down the same path towards positive change. Our current economic indicators are inadequate for measuring global trade's human effects: we are tethered by the tyranny of the bottom line. What about putting emotion, compassion and caring into the economic equation?

Ask yourself what "global" really means. Politics *and commerce are not separate.* Events in Rwanda and Zaire are directly linked to armaments factories and dealers' offices in the UK. It is a chain of death, in which some links are more implicated than others, and one implicated more than most is the British Government with its unfettered free trade policy.

The White Paper says: "Security and stability remain essential for the free market to operate successfully worldwide." Again, whose security, whose stability? In June 1996, Shell Nigeria's general manager said: "For a commercial company trying to make investments you need a stable environment. Dictatorships can give you that."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, hopes that the Government's campaign will help people to "trade their way to prosperity". Tell that to the Ogoni people of Nigeria, a country still just in the Commonwealth that might reasonably be expected to be subject to some UK influence. The real costs of unfettered trade — environmental degradation and social unrest — are always borne by those with least economic power.

"The world will be richer if others follow Britain's lead," says Kenneth Clarke, implying that all will be fine as long as people do not interfere. The time has come for business and political leaders to stop perpetuating this deceptive myth of free trade and create economics as if *people* and the planet really mattered.

☐ *Anita Roddick is founder of The Body Shop*

Roddick: "licentious belief"

BUSINESS LETTERS

Virgin survey shows BA/AA alliance should be referred

From the Chairman of the Virgin Group of Companies

Sir, Once again British Airways is obviously trying to twist reality to suit the terms of its proposed merger with American Airlines.

Jon Ashworth's article about the EU probe into the proposed BA/AA monopoly (November 11) mentions that market research shows that consumers favour the deal by a margin of seven to one. What nonsense. The only research that BA has carried out is among some of BA's own passengers and it has never made the questions or the results public.

Virgin, on the other hand, *asked MORI to conduct an* independent survey of all adults in the UK which indicated that the vast majority thought the deal should be referred to the MMC. Most consumers also felt that Virgin was right to complain and that the deal would inevitably lead to higher prices. We made all the results public and are confident that the unbiased results are robust, which is more than one can say for *BA's own passenger lobbying* exercise dressed up as a market research.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BRANSON,
Chairman,
Virgin Group of Companies,
11 Holland Park, W11.

Providing funds for pension needs

From Professor Gordon Pepper

Sir, The advantages of a country having funded pension schemes (House of Commons Report, November 1) should not be overstated. Whereas an individual pension scheme can fund, it is much more difficult for a nation as a whole to do so. The simplest way is to acquire foreign assets, as Japan has been doing. This implies a deficit on the capital account of the country's balance of payments. For this to be sustained there must be a persistent surplus on the current account.

The main domestic way in which a country can fund is if the contributions to pension funds lead to a high overall level of savings. This must feed through to industrial and other investment in productive assets. The result of this must, in turn, be that national income grows at a faster rate than would otherwise be the case. Finally workers at the time the pensions are paid must not claim the increase in income for themselves.

The UK's current account of the balance of payments, level of savings, amount of industrial investment and growth of GDP do not suggest that the nation has succeeded in funding in spite of the activities of individual pension schemes.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON PEPPER,
City University
Business School,
Barbican Centre, EC2.

The rewards of loyalty to BT

From Professor V. Moses

Sir, One must sympathise with Sir Iain Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield at BT about the *resentment which may arise* over the inequality of their pay compared with that of their new partners at MCI (Business News, November 7).

Of course the top employees at BT should have their rewards raised to meet the Americans and to ensure their loyalty. It is indeed difficult to understand how each has hitherto managed on only $1 million a year.

No doubt in fairness the pay of all the other BT employees will also rise to American levels — and for the same reason. One would not wish their loyalty to go unrecognised and unrewarded. This leaves the customers. Presumbably their telecommunication charges will fall to US rates. Are they not also loyal?

Yours faithfully,
V. MOSES,
74 Aylestone Avenue, NW6.

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Northern Foods counts the cost of BSE scare

By Sarah Cunningham

A GOOD performance from its prepared foods division boosted interim profits of Northern Foods, partially *countering a squeeze on dairy* earnings and a £3 million hit from the BSE scare.

Christopher Haskins, Northern's chairman, said: "The effect of BSE on food processing has been seriously underestimated."

Lost sales because of worries about BSE knocked £1 million off profits on convenience foods, such as chilled lasagne, and £2 million off profits on meat. "We don't see a material recovery in consumer demand. We just hope it stabilises at the current level," Mr Haskins said.

The company, a major supplier to Marks & Spencer, made a pre-tax profit, before exceptionals, of £57.8 million, up 1 per cent, in the six months to September 30.

Sales of convenience foods rose by 1.9 per cent, to £244 million, and grocery sales rose by 36.5 per cent, to £180 million. Sales of meat products fell by 7 *per cent, to £115 million*, and dairy sales fell by 13 per cent, to £403 million. Dairy operating profits were down by 27 per cent, to £22 million.

The fall in dairy sales was partly attributable to the disposal of *some* milk rounds, but, Mr Haskins said, "profits of the dairy business declined more than we had anticipated as commodity prices collapsed". Although world demand for dairy products has weakened, and the value of sterling has risen, milk commodity prices have not been cut. This resulted in signifi*cantly reduced margins for* Eden Vale.

Sales of milk delivered to the doorstep declined by 9 per cent, which is less than expected, and the price of a delivered pint was increased by 1p, to around 39p, on October 1 without so far hitting sales. Supermarket milk prices remain under pressure because of intense competition.

The dairy business continues to be affected by falling commodity prices in the second half, Mr Haskins said. However, he reckons that, excluding this factor, Northern has "probably finally stabilised" its dairy profits.

The company plans to end glass bottling at its Ashby dairy early next month, with the loss of about 20 jobs. In all, around 1,000 jobs have gone in the past year, reducing the staff total to about 25,000. No more major rounds of job losses are expected.

The performance of the groceries division is flattered by the inclusion of Green Isle, maker of Goodfella's *pizzas, as* a subsidiary for the whole period, compared with two months in 1995.

Earnings per share were 0.3 per cent higher, at 7.28p, and the interim dividend rises by 2.9 per cent, to 3.6p per share, payable on March 27. The shares closed up 2½p, at 198p.

TBI soars above travel downturn

By Fraser Nelson

TBI, the property and, airport group, defied a downturn in air travel in the summer to more than double pre-tax profits to £9.7 million from £4.24 million in the six months to September 30.

The company, which owns Cardiff and Belfast airports, attributed the results to a 47 per cent lift in scheduled flights, a 20 per cent rise in spending per passenger and costs saved by outsourcing.

Profits were also en*hanced by a £1.65 million* surplus from the disposal of a property in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Keith Brooks, chief executive, said that customer spending at Belfast airport, acquired for £100 million in August, rose from £1.95 to £2.20 per passenger and was expected to increase further.

The company said the commercial development of Cardiff airport, acquired in 1995, was continuing successfully, with a 47 per cent increase in scheduled traffic and the expenditure per passenger up 14 per cent.

Gearing was down to down to 54 per cent from 94 per cent. Mr Brooks said, and TBI might possibly complete another acquisition similar in size to Belfast airport. The interest charge *rose to £5.61 million* from £3.93 million.

TBI's property division again turned in strong growth, with a 26 per cent rise in its 12-month leases. Earnings rose 26 per cent to 2.56p per share. Again there is no interim dividend.

NEWSTEAM

Joint effort: John McCarthy, left, and Matthew Thorne, finance director, defy the trends

McCarthy attacks planners

McCARTHY & STONE, Brit*ain's largest retirement home*builder, is being "held to ransom" by local planning authorities, according to John McCarthy, its chairman (Fraser Nelson writes).

Mr McCarthy said the company's growth is being held back by councillors who make exorbitant financial demands in exchange for planning per*mission, disregarding central* government guidelines.

He said: "The planning committees know that many builders would sooner meet their demands than risk 18-month delays to construction. But we are being asked to provide extra funds for playgrounds and bicycle routes. Our residents don't use playgrounds and don't ride bikes, and we are refusing to pay on principle."

The housebuilder has 19 cases subject to an inquiry, and expects more to follow. Mr McCarthy said so far it has won 97 per cent of its cases but *must* pay an average of *£25,000 for each case.*

McCarthy & Stone defied the trends in the housing sector by increasing both margins and volume sales in the year to August 31, when pretax profits rose 19 per cent to £11 million. It sold 906 homes, compared with 858, and lifted gross margin to 35 per cent (33 per cent). However, the value of sales fell by 8 per cent to £61 million, reflecting a higher proportion of one-person homes. A higher tax charge clipped earnings to 7p a share from 7.2p. The total dividend is increased to 2.3p (2p), with a 1.75p final, due January 20.

UK car output accelerates to record October total

By Kevin Eason, motoring editor

PRODUCTION of cars jumped last month as the British motor industry showed signs that its recovery is gathering pace.

Output increased 39.3 per cent last month to 179,963 — the highest October total on record.

Although the surge was underpinned by demand at home — up 22.79 per cent to 74,771 — exports provided the huge boost to British factories.

Production for sales overseas rose 54.02 per cent to 105,192 as orders for new models such as the Coventry-made Jaguar XK8 and Ford's latest Fiesta, which is made at Dagenham in Essex, were fulfilled and Japanese manufacturers in the *UK — Toyota, Honda and* Nissan — continued to increase their shipments to Europe.

Output in the year so far was up to 1,407,515, an increase of 10.02 per cent over the January to October period of last year, underlining evidence that the British motor industry is thriving.

Even with domestic sales stagnant, carmakers have been finding more and more sales overseas.

Jaguar, for example, enjoyed a record October, with sales of 4,385 cars, boosted mainly by the launch of the XK8 sports models.

Sales of saloons and *sports* cars in the US reached a ten-year high, while sales around the world also reached monthly records as the first XK8 models were delivered.

Ernie Thompson, the chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said yesterday: "These outstanding production figures demonstrate yet again the resurgence of the motor industry in Britain."

Meanwhile, production of commercial vehicles is also rising rapidly, up 33.69 per cent to 22,909 in October.

Although there is little cheer at home, with output for domestic consumption down 4.52 per cent, production for overseas was ahead a healthy 147.17 per cent.

However, that was not enough to turn round the lack of growth in the commercial vehicle market.

Total production of vans, lorries and buses in the first ten months of the year was 199,960, 0.43 per cent down on the January to October figure last year.

European slowdown is sapping for Wagon

WEAK demand in European markets sapped profits at Wagon Industrial in the six months to September 30, as the car parts and store fittings group suffered a 13 per cent pre-tax profits fall to £11.1 million.

John Hudson, chief executive, said government policy discouraging supermarkets to open out-of-town branches had caused a lull in demand for retail equipment. He expects a recovery next year as supermarkets refurbish old stores.

The pan-European storage business saw a decline in both sales and profits, in spite of having added a £500,000 marketing team in Germany. Mr Hudson said that the team was now trained, and prepared for a recovery.

Earnings were 13.5p a share compared with 17p. The interim dividend, due on February 20, is held at 7p.

Greenway loss

Greenway Holdings, the lubricants and recycled fuels company, incurred a pre-tax loss of £80,000 in the half year to the September 30, compared with profits of £564,000 in the first half of the previous year. There was a delay in the recovery of fuel oil sales to the power generation sector, leaving sales volume some two million gallons below expectations. The interim is maintained at 0.5p. Directors expect a return to profitability for the financial year as a whole.

CML shrinks

Pre-tax profits at CML Microsystems, the distributor of electronic equipment, fell to £117,000 from £725,000 in the six months to September 30. Earnings shrunk to 1.35p a share (3.38p). Again there is no interim dividend. The company has net cash of £8.04 million.

Courtaulds fears effect of strong pound on exports

By Carl Mortished

COURTAULDS said yesterday that the strong pound could hurt its export business. The chemicals group reported a decline in pre-tax profits for the half year after difficult markets for acrylic and viscose fibres.

Gordon Campbell, chief executive, said he expected margins to remain poor in viscose and said that the strength of sterling was unhelpful.

He said that Courtaulds exported goods worth £218 million from the UK in the half year to September and he indicated that the dollar exchange rate was the problem.

"We are sitting on a UK manufacturing base with a large part of sales going out of the UK. As for all such businesses, stronger sterling makes us less competitive."

In the half-year to September, pre-tax profits fell from £68 million to £64 million. Operating profits from continuing businesses were up 7 per cent to £80 million and Courtaulds' Tencel business went into profit for the first time. Sales of the new fibre were double those of a year ago and the company expects a new Tencel manufacturing plant in Grimsby, South Humberside, to be commissioned by the end of next year.

Courtaulds is looking forward to strong growth in aerospace sealants because of a surge in civil aircraft orders. Coatings and sealants contributed £42 million (£41 million) in operating profits in the half year while polymer products rose from £10 million to £12 million. The fibres business grew 12 per cent to £27 million.

Courtaulds is increasing the half-year dividend from 4.3p to 4.45p after earnings of 10.6p (11.3p).

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Century Inns cheered by profits growth

STRONG growth in its managed pubs division helped Century Inns, the independent pub group based in the *North East and Yorkshire, to* a 23 *per cent increase,* to £7.1 million, in full-year profits.

Overall turnover for the year to September 30 increased 13 per cent, to £24 million. During the year, Century invested £7 million in the estate and added 28 new outlets, including 18 purchased *from Tom Cobleigh* for £2.5 million in April. The maiden final dividend of 4.5p is payable on January 21.

Alistair Arkley, left, Century Inns chief executive, and Barry Whitehead, finance director

No sign of motor rate upturn

By Marianne Curphey
Insurance correspondent

MOTOR insurance rates could stay low until March next year as competing insurers play a game of brinkmanship with one another, it was claimed yesterday.

AA Insurance, which has a panel of 30 *insurers, and CE Heath, the international* broker, both said yesterday that there was little sign of the upturn in rates which the industry had been hoping for.

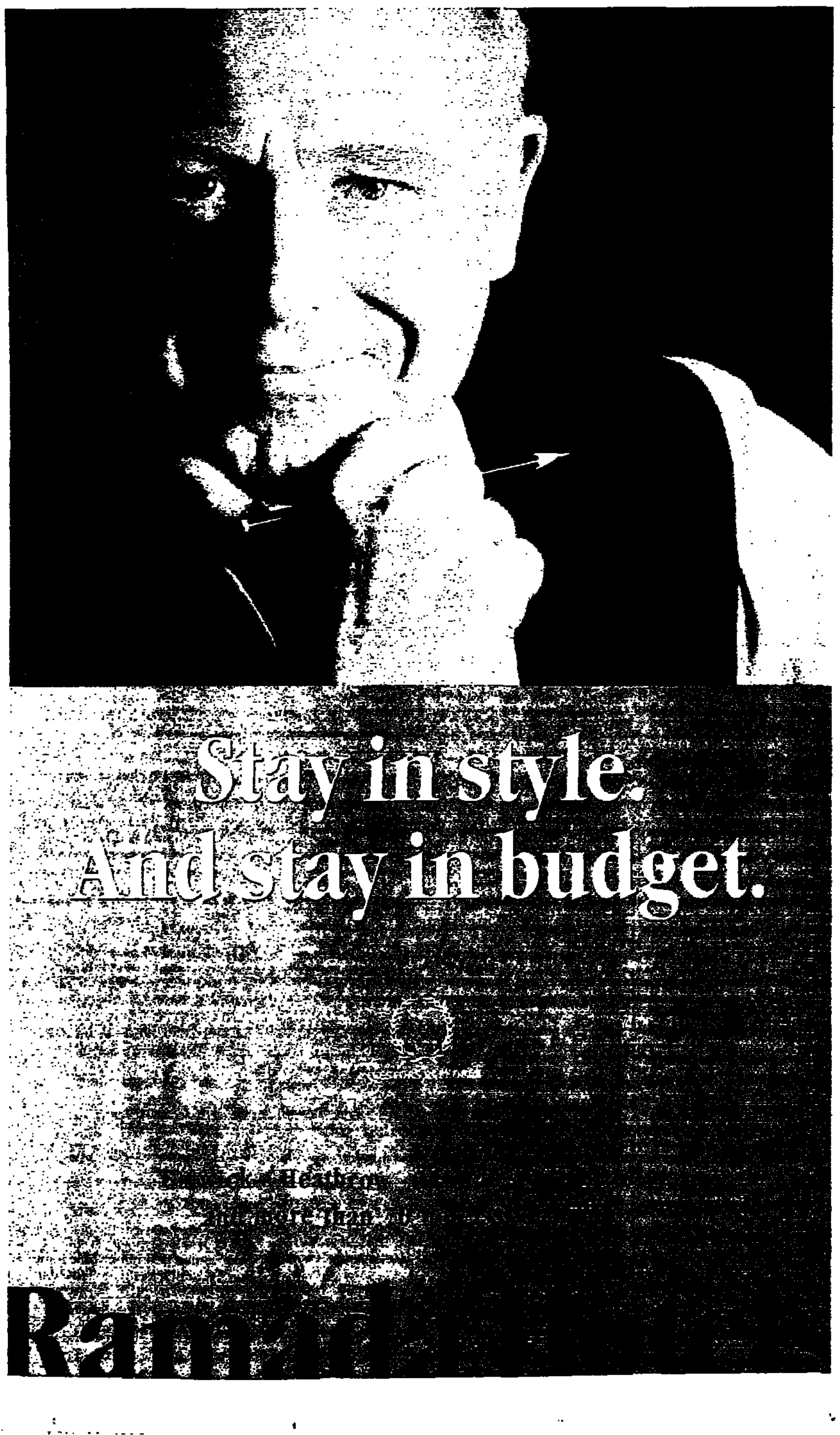
The AA said a rise in personal motor premiums was unlikely until the first quarter of next year, while Heath said it was impossible to predict when the upturn in the cycle would begin. A number of the smaller players, including some direct insurers, have been trying to raise rates in order to stem underwriting losses. "It is a game of brinkmanship and the first to raise rates loses business to rivals," a spokeswoman for the AA said.

Insurers are also worried at the prospect that the Chancellor may decide *to more than double insurance premium* tax from 2.5 per cent to 5 or 6 per cent in next week's Budget. This would be effective from April, just as rates are predicted to start rising.

CE Heath's comments came as the broker announced interim profits before tax and exceptional items had almost halved to £3.4 million (£6.4 million). After exceptional items the interim profit was £4.6 million, up from £10.3 million.

Earnings per share were down from 4p to 3.1p, but last year's figure was higher because it included profits from computer services, now floated off as a separate company, and underwriting, which is no longer part of the group.

In the six months to September 30 overall brokerage rose 9 per cent and underlying UK expenses fell 3 per cent. Premium Search, the broker's telephone sales operation, reduced its operating loss from £2.2 million to £700,000 million over the six months and is expected to break even by next March.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FKI plans revamp to improve profits at Hawker Siddeley

By Paul Durman

FKI, the engineering group that recently bought the Hawker Siddeley electric power business from BTR, yesterday reported a 30 per cent improvement in its first-half profits, to £51.4 million.

FKI plans a substantial reorganisation to improve profits of the Hawker Siddeley business, including the possible closure of its loss-making overseas operations. Bob Beeston, FKI's chief executive, said that it was too early to estimate the cost of the restructuring.

Jeff Whalley, chairman, said that FKI had strengthened the management of the engineering division, under its chairman, James Beckett. Together with its other recent purchase, the Italian firm of Marelli Motori, the £182 million Hawker Siddeley deal has made the engineering division FKI's largest business.

Mr Whalley made clear that the deals had not dulled FKI's appetite for further acquisitions, even though borrowings now represent about 65 per cent of the £382 million of shareholders' funds. He added: "We are in discussions most of the time. We hope to be able to make some progress in the next six months." The next purchase is unlikely to be in engineering.

The profits improvement in the six months to September 30 was led by FKI's hardware division, whose operating profits rose from £18.5 million to £25.1 million. Sales grew strongly, to £151.6 million, helped by a recovery in demand, good progress with ergonomic office furniture and the purchase, in July, of Wright Products, a North American door and window hardware business.

The material handling division, which includes conveyors and balers, increased profits from £14.7 million to £17.1 million in spite of sales slipping back to £130.8 million. FKI said that it had received fewer orders from the UK coal industry and from the US scrap paper business.

In spite of difficult trading conditions, profits from the engineering division rose by 18 per cent, to £6.5 million, on sales of £80.5 million.

The automotive division, which makes cabling for car manufacturers, was the only division to record a fall in profits, making £4.7 million, down from £5.3 million last year. Mr Whalley said that the division had seen a big rise in orders, but that this had yet to show through because of costs of buying new equipment and recruiting new staff.

FKI, which earns most of its money outside the UK, has reorganised its overseas businesses to allow it to pay its first foreign income dividend, of 3.1p a share. This compares with last year's net interim dividend of 2.2p, which was equivalent to 2.75p when the tax credit was included.

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TONY WHITE

Bob Beeston, left, and Jeff Whalley yesterday, when FKI unveiled £51.4 million profits

Losses of £20.8m at Brunel Holdings

By Martin Baker

BRUNEL Holdings, the engineering group previously known as BM Group, incurred pre-tax losses of £20.86 million in the year to the end of June after a £23.4 million charge against the disposal of discontinued businesses.

But with operating profits from continuing businesses holding steady at £8.3 million, compared with £8.8 million, the company is maintaining the annual dividend at 0.5p a share, payable from adjusted earnings of 1.3p a share.

In the previous year pre-tax profits were £17 million and earnings were 13.7p a share.

Turnover increased 29 per cent to £151 million.

Analysts were encouraged to see increased sales figures, but were sceptical that the company had fully succeeded in shaking off the aftermath of its acquisition of Blackwood Hodge in 1991.

Brunel has settled for an undisclosed sum a lengthy and expensive legal dispute with Hambros Bank, which advised on the acquisition.

Cliff Walker, Brunel chief executive, said: "We're now almost at a situation where we have reasonably focused businesses operating at a profit."

He added that Brunel's immediate objectives were low-debt, lower-geared businesses that were largely export-oriented.

Group borrowings dropped over the year to £27.8 million, compared with £32.7 million for the preceding year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bradford Property jumps to £14.2m

BRADFORD PROPERTY TRUST, the owner of tenated residential property, achieved a 21 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £14.2 million in the six months to October 5. Gross rental income rose 26 per cent to £15 million and revenues from property sales was up 45 per cent to £13.8 million. The company is increasing the interim dividend by 8.6 per cent to 3.8p a share, payable from earnings that rose to 6.46p a share from 5.4p. The shares rose 4p to 242½p.

Philip Warner, chairman, said housing activity had improved during the summer and autumn, and vacant possession values were rising. The recovery had been sustained but regional variations remained, with some areas experiencing no signs of growth. The company spent £6.1 million on residential properties. It also acquired office property in Epsom, Surrey, for £2.5 million and took a 9.76 per cent interest in Mountview Estates, a residential property company, for £5.9 million.

Southnews advances

ORGANIC growth and an acquisition helped Southnews, the local newspaper publisher, to increase pre-tax profit 36 per cent to £2.68 million, from £1.97 million, in the six months to September 28. Turnover rose 39 per cent to a record £18.4 million, from £13.2 million. Although much of this growth arose from the inclusion of the Croydon Advertiser Group for the first time, the underlying growth rate was 12 per cent. An interim dividend of 2.25p a share (1.76p) will be paid on January 10.

Birkdale back in black

BIRKDALE GROUP, the marketing services company, returned to profit in the half-year to the end of September, earning £241,000 before tax, compared with a £1.15 million loss. Earnings were 0.2p a share, against losses of 1.2p. There is again no dividend. The company has strengthened its balance sheet, raising £2.5 million through a placing and open offer and now enjoys a positive operating cash flow. Turnover was £6 million (£6.9 million).

Kalamazoo up 16%

KALAMAZOO COMPUTER GROUP, the supplier of specialist computer solutions and printer of security and business forms, earned pre-tax profits of £2.3 million in the half-year to the end of September, up 16 per cent from £2 million previously. The interim dividend is 9 per cent higher at 1.2p, payable from earnings that rose to 3.72p a share (3.66p). At the operating level profits improved to £2.5 million from £1.6 million.

Record for Sterling

STERLING INDUSTRIES, the precision hydraulic and thermal process engineering company, achieved record interim pre-tax profits of £5 million in the six months to the end of September, a 29 per cent rise on the first half of the previous year. Earnings increased to 10.73p a share from 9.56p. The interim dividend is lifted to 3.2p a share from 2.8p. The company ended the first half with net cash of £7.8 million.

Tinsley raises interim

TINSLEY ROBOR, the supplier of printed packaging for the music and multimedia industries, has raised its interim dividend 20 per cent, to 0.9p a share, after a 19 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £1.8 million in the six months to September 30. But the effect of June's rights issue meant earnings were little changed at 3.9p a share, compared with 3.7p. Turnover was 17 per cent higher, at £24.9 million. Shaun Lawson, chairman, said the second half had started encouragingly.

Qantas seeks ways to lift investment from overseas

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

QANTAS, the Australian airline in which British Airways has a 25 per cent interest, is exploring ways to increase the availability of its shares to foreign investors.

The move is an attempt to improve the performance of the share price, Gary Pemberton, chairman, said yesterday. The shares have languished around the A$2 (95p) mark since flotation at that price 18 months ago.

Mr Pemberton told the annual meeting that while demand from Australian institutions had weakened, demand from overseas institutions, which are limited to holding 49 per cent of the stock, had been strong.

He said: "Clearly it raises the issue again of foreign ownership and the problems of limited availability and liquidity of stock for major foreign investors. We have done a lot of work on this problem and we have sought the views of a cross section of domestic and international investors." Mr Pemberton hopes to develop a solution by next August.

However, he insisted that Qantas would not be creating separate classes of shares for domestic and foreign investors, saying: "In a two-class system, foreign shares would sell at a premium, domestic shares would be insulated from overseas price competition and there would effectively be a transfer of wealth from domestic to foreign shareholders."

Chubb locks further into the Australian market

From Our Correspondent in Sydney

CHUBB Security made a further foray into the Australian market yesterday with the acquisition of the fire-protection arm of James Hardie Industries, the building materials group, for A$220 million (£110 million).

The acquisition follows Chubb's purchase of James Hardie's Australian security monitoring and manpower business last December and its acquisition of the security business of Mayne Nickless for A$41 million in May.

David Peacock, Chubb's chief executive, said this latest acquisition would establish the group as a leading provider of fire-protection products and services in the Asia-Pacific region and substantially develop its position in access control.

Even before this acquisition Chubb's operations in Australia and New Zealand accounted for almost a quarter of its £770 million annual turnover.

The business being bought by Chubb, known at present as James Hardie Building Services, manufactures, distributes and installs fire-protection and safety equipment in Australia and New Zealand. In the year to March 1996 it achieved a pre-tax profit of A$5.9 million on sales of about A$242 million. It has total net assets of A$75 million and employs about 1,700 people.

Only last month James Hardie said that profits for the current year to March 1997 would be lower than expected.

ACCOUNTANCY

Ruling is a reason to cheer

The European Court of Justice deserves praise for its verdicts on VAT, says **Richard Watson**

It is not often that the boardrooms of Britain ring to the praises of the European Court of Justice, especially just now. But last month it did more to reduce the value-added tax burden on British industry than the Chancellor will probably do in next week's Budget.

VAT is essentially a European tax, so British VAT legislation is subject to review by the European Court. Two companies, Elida Gibbs, which is a subsidiary of Unilever, and Argos have been fighting their corner for several years and eventually reached the European Court, which overruled not only previous UK court decisions, but also the opinion of its own Advocate General.

The fundamental arguments in both cases concerned a point of principle: whether the tax charged should relate to the amount of cash received. At first glance the answer would seem to be obvious, but, the fact that it has taken 23 years to sort these issues out suggests that in VAT terms it was certainly not.

Apart from this common principle, the two cases are different. The Elida Gibbs case concerned money-off coupons issued by a manufacturer, distributed to consumers entitling them to a discount on buying a product from a retailer. The retailer accounts for VAT only on the discounted amount, but sends the coupon to the manufacturer for redemption. On redeeming the coupon, it accounts for tax on that amount. Customs would thus receive the full amount of VAT.

The manufacturer would have received the original price paid by the retailer, plus VAT, but less the amount that it paid to redeem the coupon. Because that latter amount was regarded as tax-inclusive, it would have paid a larger amount of VAT than it should have done in relation to the amount of cash received.

The European Court said this was wrong — the payment by the manufacturer to the retailer was in effect a retrospective discount on the original supply of the goods to the retailer. The manufacturer should thus reduce its VAT bill by the VAT in the amount paid to the retailer — whether or not the sale is direct or through a wholesaler.

This is good news for manufacturers. They will be relieved of a burden of VAT that they should never have borne and will be able to reclaim at least three years' worth of that additional VAT. Had it not been for the Government's announcement of a three-year limit on refunds, they would (records permitting) have been able to reclaim such amounts back to the start of the tax.

Richard Watson says the issues have taken 23 years to resolve

The second case, that of Argos, is different and perhaps not so wide reaching. Argos sells vouchers that can be redeemed at face value in its stores. Sometimes it sells these vouchers at a discount to employers, which then give them to their employees. When the employee goes to the Argos store to spend the voucher, he receives the face value, but Argos has received only the discounted amount. It not unreasonably argued that, on that basis, it should account for VAT only on the lower amount. Again, the European Court agreed.

These two cases highlight three separate points. The first is that the European Court is the ultimate arbiter of VAT legislation. The second is that VAT should be charged on the amount of cash received by the supplier, even when that amount is reduced by subsequent events.

Finally, these two cases highlight the inequity of the Government's new three-year rule. Both manufacturers that issue coupons and retailers on the same lines as Argos have suffered over the years from a burden of taxation that should not have occurred.

Customs and Excise has estimated the revenue loss from these two cases at £70 million for three years, but this is a notoriously difficult area to estimate. Without the three-year limit, the total payout could approach £500 million.

Either way, it is good news for industry and reinforces the fact that VAT is a tax on consumer expenditure, not a tax on business.

So, for once, let us hear it for the European Court of Justice.

Richard Watson is head of VAT at Price Waterhouse

Technology will give tax system more logic

ROBIN COOKE-HURLE is one of the brightest minds in the tax business. And in some ways he is doing more to simplify tax than any number of committees attempting to rewrite the basic legislation. He runs Taxsoft, which as you might expect, produces innovative tax software.

This week, days before the Budget, is when people wonder again quite what we can do about the tax system. Cooke-Hurle thinks along those lines. But his prognosis, which we will come to later, is very different to most.

One of the noisiest broadsides against the tax system has just been published by Ernst & Young, which is building quite a reputation for coming up with perceptive views and then expressing them in a pretty unequivocal manner. This latest, *Heaven Can Wait — but taxpayers can't*, covers the reform of taxation of employees.

It traces the development of such taxes. "In the beginning," it says, "there was a simple tax, expressed in straightforward language. Now it is far from simple. It is no longer a tax on profits from employment. It is a chaotic scrap heap of arbitrary rules piled higgledy-piggledy on top of each other, as successive legislators have contributed *ad hoc* solutions to real or perceived problems at the margin, until the overall structure has become no structure at all. Just an ever-growing mass of muddle and obscurity.

That is the current situation, succinctly put. But the tax system is not just out of cultural step with a simpler business society. It lags far behind in terms of the way people work and the technology of everyday business life. As another part of Ernst & Young's excellent pamphlet says: "While management gurus and the human resources specialists tell us about the need for flexible remuneration packages, and semi-detached working arrangements, the tax system has only just caught up with the notion that these days most people don't commute on horseback. The system of taxation of employment income," it says, "has become hopelessly outmoded and bureaucratic. The introduction of self-assessment will exacerbate the situation."

That also is true. At Somerset House this week the Inland Revenue ran a brief presentation on the next steps in the self-assessment saga. Officials were emollient and charming. They emphasised again and again that they were leaning over backwards to get the system running as smoothly as a fundamental change in the method of taxing just under a quarter of taxpayers in the country can be. The Revenue is doing a good job on self-assessment. The problem is that it is the wrong form of tax system.

All the chaos of the tax system will in future be collated and reorganised. This will not be done by tax simplification committees or even by the Inland Revenue. The forces for change will simply be technology and business methods.

One evening this year, Robin Cook-Hurle was walking through the City with a couple of friends after a traditional City dinner in one of the livery halls. And as they found themselves walking past numerous other livery halls a thought struck them. All of these mighty halls had been built by businesses which were subsequently destroyed by technology. The same will also be true of the tax business. In part, last week's report from the English ICA on where the profession will be in the year 2005 covered this point. "We believe that tax compliance services have some limited scope for expansion," it said. "But we also believe that tax compliance will be an unattractive area for many practitioners — except possibly as a semi-detached adjunct to the main practice of those able to exploit technology to handle high volumes profitably." Tax planning and high-level expert advice will continue to be a growth area. The basic compliance work within tax will be computerised and only the advice side of the business will be left. A few clever advisers will evaluate the possibilities. Tax strategy is already moving to the centre of businesses rather than being the province of backroom specialists.

But, as Cooke-Hurle tends to point out, computer systems are unforgiving. This is where the way in which compliance work is done will drive the revolution in the tax system. "Total logic forces out and exposes the flaws in the legislation."

This is where the Holy Grail of tax simplification lies. Legislation will not be able to be enacted if it is too complex and too flawed in the future. Once the tax compliance system is run by technology, the changes that a Chancellor traditionally makes as a result of the Budget and the subsequent Finance Bill will have to conform to a logical system at last.

ROBERT BRUCE

OTHER BUSINESS

All for the sake of a brand

THE business of valuing brands has always been an embarrassment to fastidious accountants. Johnnie Walker whisky, as Sir David Tweedie of the Accounting Standards Board is fond of telling us, has been around for longer than the United States of America. But the idea of sticking brands in balance sheets and then trying to assess an annual increase or decrease in their value has always proved a thorny problem. The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising has just produced a review of current practice written by David Haigh. And in an appendix he quotes some recent American examples. In percentage changes to their deemed value the brand of Remy Martin has fallen 24 per cent in the year, while Johnnie Walker Red Label rose 4 per cent. Gilbey's gin fell 20 per cent, while its stablemate, Bombay Gin, rose 40 per cent. The game of Scrabble rose 5 per cent, while Trivial Pursuit fell 5 per cent. It is small wonder that brand valuation is a game that accountants would rather leave alone.

Royal saviour

THE Royal Family is saved. The iron discipline of past eras is to be brought to bear. Phyllida Dare is to take on the administrative duties in the Prince of Wales's office that were previously carried out by the famous Tiggy Legge-Bourke. What, you may ask, is this news doing in an accountancy diary column? Simple. Dare's father was the legendary Lord Benson. He built the firm of Coopers into the mighty business it is today. He was a fine president of the English ICA. And he brought the idea of accounting standards to fruition. And he did it all with the utmost of strong leadership and a stern no-nonsense approach. The Royal Family's popularity ratings will rise again soon.

Graham's way

TERESA GRAHAM, of Baker Tilly, has made her way to the fore at Workplace 2000 — the English ICA's project that provides help on workplace issues. Graham has become chairman and has some revolutionary ideas. "I am planning to look at the promotion of chartered accountancy as a 'family-friendly' profession," she said.

ROBERT BRUCE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grofund Amer	228.00	241.20†	+ 1.00	0.14
Grofund Equity	283.70	301.70	+ 1.50	1.82
Grofund Euro	266.40	281.90	+ 0.60	0.57
Grofund Expt Bal	131.50	136.30		2.58
Grofund Gilt	76.29	78.81	+ 0.06	6.18
Grofund Japan	153.30	162.20†	+ 1.10	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	674.80	717.90	+ 1.50	2.46
General Inc	563.30	599.30	+ 1.30	2.46
UP Growth Acc	463.60	493.20†	+ 0.70	2.62
UK Growth Inc	300.00	319.20†	+ 0.50	2.62
Higher Inc Acc	814.00	866.00†	- 1.60	4.07
Higher Inc Inc	435.70	461.40†	- 0.80	4.07
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	211.50	225.40	- 0.50	5.39
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	93.40	98.71	- 0.21	5.39
Nth America	360.50	383.60†	- 0.40	
Europe	360.50	383.60	+ 2.30	0.43
Brit Excel?	91.54	97.39†	+ 0.18	2.76
Brit Fndmtls Acc	116.70	124.20	- 0.40	4.58
Brit Fndmtls Inc	78.09	83.08	- 0.22	4.56
Global Opps	100.20	106.70†	+ 0.40	
Balanced Acc	63.37	67.42†	+ 0.05	2.53
Balanced Inc	59.17	62.95†	+ 0.11	2.53
Japan Acc	41.73	44.40	+ 0.36	
Pac Basin Acc	391.40	416.40†	+ 2.10	0.73
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	133.20	141.30	- 0.10	6.91
High Inc Equity	183.40	196.10†	+ 0.10	4.40
Worldwide Bond	272.20	288.60†	- 0.60	5.10
American Growth	383.20	409.60	+ 1.50	0.31
Asian Pacific	319.00	341.30	+ 1.10	0.08
Assets & Earnings	304.20	325.30†	+ 1.20	2.90
Euro Capital Acc	186.80	199.80	+ 0.40	0.79
Extra Inc	42.96	45.70†	+ 0.03	7.84
General	281.10	299.00	+ 0.30	2.93
Global Opps	68.30	72.66	+ 0.10	0.55
Japan	105.80	113.20	+ 0.80	
Managed Inc	47.92	50.98†	+ 0.02	4.71
Mastertrust	166.80	178.40	+ 0.30	1.03
US Emerging Cos	200.10	212.90	- 0.60	
Ethical	81.65	86.86	- 0.06	2.15
International	134.30	142.90	+ 0.40	0.50
Dividend & Growth	68.68	73.06	+ 0.06	4.20
Global Gwth & Sec	73.82	78.88	+ 0.05	2.36
Latin America	62.86	66.87	- 0.11	
Capital Reserve	146.20	146.20		4.79
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2364.00	2455.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	61.04	63.34†	+ 0.14	0.15
Emerging Mkts	68.77	71.63	- 0.15	0.05
European	150.20	156.30	+ 0.80	
Exempt	1088.00	1145.00†	+ 2.00	1.63
Extra Income #	46.90	49.36	- 0.17	6.59
Far East Emg Eco	125.08	131.10	- 0.20	0.48
Fixed Interest #	25.29	26.30†	- 0.02	9.03
Fund Inv Tst	152.90	160.40†	- 0.10	0.57
Japan	163.10	169.60	+ 1.10	
Latin American	58.57	58.85	- 0.24	0.83

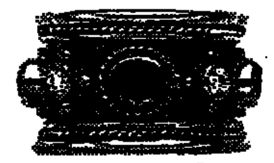
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	102.24	109.01	+ 0.06	1.85
American Portfolio	124.19	131.88	+ 0.38	1.02
European Portfolio	135.80	144.50†	+ 0.40	0.63
High Income	52.15	52.27†	- 0.11	7.49
Japanese Portfolio	82.68	88.43	+ 0.51	
Pacific Portfolio	155.43	167.13	+ 0.60	1.08
UK Equity	97.28	103.94†	+ 0.07	3.45
UK Equity & Bd	57.77	61.20	- 0.10	6.23
UK Smlr Cos	51.59	55.18	- 0.06	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	775.31	787.03	..	4.24
Fxd In Sec	158.59	159.23	.	8.98
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	760.53	772.03	.	4.38
Investment Acc	535.06	535.59	..	...
Fixed Int Inc	126.86	127.35		9.11
Fixed Int Acc	231.04	231.98	.	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.20	94.04†	- 0.82	4
Beck Bio-Tech	41.39	45.01		
Accum Ethical Tst	187.49	195.88		0.45
City Fin Assets	79.09	83.05†		2.32
City Fin Intl	89.78	94.28†	+ 1.00	0.45
Fears Hse Cap	310.51	390.33		2.56
Buckley Wrld Gth	134.59	142.66	- 1.29	
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	56.67	59.51		3.22
Shaw Utilities	58.52	59.94†	- 0.09	6.07
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	52.71	55.93	- 0.01	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	79.38	84.45	+ 0.06	
Dragon Growth	71.76	76.74	+ 0.40	0.33
Equity High Inc	89.77	96.25	- 0.19	4.23
-do- Accum	129.93	139.31	- 0.27	4.23
Extra Income Inc	26.77	28.20	+ 0.06	7.40
Extra Income Acc	29.46	31.03	+ 0.07	7.40
European Gwth	63.51	67.38	+ 0.49	0.81
Evergreen	31.34	33.57	+ 0.20	0.02
General Equity	105.31	111.74	+ 0.17	2.89
Japan Growth	44.23	47.05	+ 0.25	
Pedigree Gwth	64.32	68.95	- 0.04	2.39
Pad Sml Cos Inc	37.61	40.44†	- 0.08	1.42
-do- Accum	40.09	43.11	- 0.08	1.42
Retirement Inc #	27.41	29.62	- 0.02	6.04
Special Sits	46.21	49.60	- 0.02	2.41
UK & Overseas	60.07	63.73	+ 0.24	0.53
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	70.37	73.30	+ 0.05	4.12
Capital	83.96	87.45	+ 0.24	2.62
High Income	52.10	54.27†	+ 0.03	6.89
Top 50	56.81	59.17	+ 0.15	2.59
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond #	51.42	53.08†	- 0.07	6.46
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227388 Dealing 01277 690446				
Sector Value Inc #	104.90	110.60†	+ 0.40	3.73
Sector Value Gwth	106.20	112.10†	+ 0.40	2.03
Hy 5 Europe	102.10	107.20	- 0.50	2.35
Slater Gwth	178.50	188.40†	- 0.10	0.48
New Japan	92.73	97.70	+ 0.09	..
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	187.10	199.00	+ 0.10	..
Income #	220.64	234.72	+ 0.20	4.26
UK Growth	86.65	92.18	+ 0.07	1.86

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	83.02	85.20†	- 0.11	5.20
Intl Equity Growth	84.97	90.26†	+ 0.45	0.75
N Amer Growth	137.45	146.84	+ 0.05	0.02
Special Sits Growth	28.16	29.95	+ 0.09	1.99
UK Growth	463.59	493.18†	+ 1.42	2.55
-do- Accum	640.17	681.03	+ 1.97	2.56
NM JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1431.70	1453.80†	..	2.90
Income #	1040.00	1056.90	...	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	165.00	188.70	...	3.59

ELIZABETH GAGE

Goldsmith



18ct yellow and white gold ring
with oval faceted rubies and diamonds

20 ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON WIX 4LB
Telephone 0171 499 2879 Facsimile 0171 495 4550

Design © Elizabeth Gage

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Int Growth	84.56	89.95	+ 0.33	0.45
Ecology	101.85	108.35†	- 0.34	0.87
European	207.224	220.36	+ 0.78	0.56
Far Eastern	298.70	317.70	+ 1.60	
UK Special Sits	53.69	57.26†	+ 0.12	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers 0171 256 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.30	105.70	+ 0.10	7.04
Gilt Fund	117.90	125.40	- 0.60	6.81
Global Income	230.70	245.40†	+ 2.30	3.67
High Yield	153.80	163.40†	+ 0.20	5.71
-do- Accum	509.30	541.50†	+ 0.40	5.71

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Pfolio	179.50	185.00	+ 0.10	2.51
-do- Accum	213.60	219.60	+ 0.10	2.51
UK Sel Pfolio	159.60	164.50	- 0.20	2.54
-do- Accum	192.40	198.30	- 0.20	2.54
UK 100 Cos	117.00	117.00	- 0.10	2.84
-do- Accum	119.20	119.20	- 0.10	2.84
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	74.22	78.98	.	3.59
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				

Bonds and equities lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	419	Allied Domecq	449½	− 4	6.8	13.1
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	534	− 1	3.1	17.9
131	67½	Burn Stewart	69	+ ½	8.2	73.3
775	615	Glenmorangie A	760		2.0	19.5
496	411	Grand Met	454½	− 5½	4.1	19.7
493	430	Guinness	438¼	− 1	4.3	13.6
378	315	Highland Dist	323	...	3.2	15.8
303	270	Matthew Clark	273½		11.0	13.0
141	93	Minyden W	108½	− 7	5.1	70.0
2617½	1481¼	SA Breweries	1543¾	+ 12½	2.1	

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3750	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3728¾	− 9¾	3.4	13.9
663	528	Abbey Nat	645		4.5	11.9
400	315	Allied Irish	389½	− ½	4.6	11.2
374¾	285	Aus New Z	364½	+ 8¼	5.1	
5850	3843¾	Bank America	5850	+ 118¾		
316	227½	Bank Scotland	282¾	+ 2¾	3.2	10.4
1012	683	Barclays	984½	+ 8½	3.6	10.8
539½	413	Bk of Ireland	495½	+ 1½	4.2	11.3
482	379	Cater Allen	385	− ½	9.7	11.4
5668¾	4031¼	Citicorp	5662¾			
382	307½	Close Bros	327½	− 2¾	3.9	13.0
1575	1316¾	Commerzbk	1375		3.5	..
1950	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	996¼	− 3¾	0.5	..
3412½	2768¾	Deutsche Bk	2663¾	+ 28¾	2.5	
806¼	503¾	Espirito Santo	768¾	+ 21¼	4.3	11.1
1507	1082¾	Fuji Bank Y	1085½	+ 2¾	0.4	
472	260	Gerrard Nat	274½		10.5	11.2
367¼	196	Hambros	345½	− 1	3.8	20.7
1316	931	HSBC	1245	− 7	3.8	11.8
1294¾	930	HSBC HK	1214½	− 4½	3.9	11.5
477½	385	Irish Perm	477½		3.0	13.1
197	143	King Shaxson	185		6.2	15.7
465	405	Leopold J	465		5.2	16.8
416¾	294½	Lloyds TSB	392½	− 7	3.9	18.2
685¼	566	Nat Aust Bk	659¾	+ 6½	6.2	9.0
739½	605½	Nat West	686½	− 5½	4.8	9.8
67	49½	Rea Brothers	62½		2.0	24.6
595	454	Ryl Bk Scot	505	+ 8	4.2	11.1
1465	1165	Schroders	1412½		1.5	18.1
1305	890	Schroders N/V	1190		1.8	13.5
135	99½	Singer & Fried	129	− 2½	4.1	9.5
729½	547	Stand Chart	661½	+ 5	2.3	12.9
115½	85½	Union	96½	− 2	3.9	10.4
£174¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
665	436	Brammer	668	+ 11½	2.8	19.2
35½	18	Bridgend Gp	20		1.3	...
113	76	Brit Fittings	88½	− 4	5.3	10.1
290	245	Cattles	285		5.0	22.6
160	105	Cowdale	121½		3.5	8.0
107½	78	Charles Sidney	81½		5.8	11.5
79	54½	Cook (DC)	82		4.2	7.6
175	94½	Dag Motors	96	...	10.0	6.8
163	125¾	Dennans D	141½		2.3	14.2
434	328	Delaware	384		4.8	
441½	328	Electrocomponents	441½	+ 1½	2.0	36.8
314	125½	Eurodis Elec	158½		3.8	15.3
134½	65	Eurodollar	119		4.3	17.8
105	76	European Mo	85		7.6	9.6
375	235	Evans Halshaw	237½		8.7	9.9
67	48	File Indexer	49½		8.3	7.4
338	248	Finelist Gp	313½		2.5	18.0
39¼	18½	Gardiner	33		3.3	13.2
81	33½	Glenchewton	63½		2.1	18.8
97½	70½	Gowrings	82½	+ 1	4.2	14.0
101	72½	Hamlett	82½		9.1	7.6
292	216	Harris (Philip)	252½		4.1	19.0
295½	200½	Headlam	280		2.3	23.2
200	132	Holders Tech	167½	− 2½	4.5	15.7
210½	153	ISA Intl	210	...	1.5	18.1
316	231	Inchcape	271½	+ 6	3.8	23.2
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	57½		4.3	18.8
260	180	Kwik-Fit	226		2.9	18.1
390	299	Lex Service	361	− ½	5.3	11.5
155	114	Lookers	114½		8.7	6.7
17	10½	Malaya Grp	12	+ ½	6.9	12.9
9¼	6	Minidecor	6¼		1.5	9.5
47	31	Midstates	43	− 1	0.7	..
565	440	Norbain	468½	...	2.0	13.7
349	230	Northamber	326½	+ 9	0.8	12.0
162	106	PCT	125		7.7	11.7
331	201½	Pittards	322½		2.8	15.4
342½	272	Pendragon	342½		3.4	18.6
211	145	Perry Gp	188½		5.5	9.6
745	602	Premier Farnell	707	+ 11½	2.0	27.5
190	135	Quicks Group	148½	− 1	5.5	11.1
315	165	REA	282½		1.8	33.9
3	2	Reece	2½	...		
54	20½	Ransom	20½	− ½	9.1	7.1
4½	2	Rose Gp	3	..		
56	46½	SEP Ind	52		4.0	11.2
195	60	Saltire	72½		1.7	23.5
417½	346	Time Products	384½		3.8	14.7
307½	123	UMECO	280	...	2.2	20.0
332½	263¾	Vardy (Reg)	389½		2.8	13.8
483	325	WF Elect	460		3.5	19.6
59	25¼	Westbury	33¼	+ 1½	3.1	10.0
149¾	75¼	Wyko	128½	..	2.2	18.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
299	200	Quadramatic	223½		4.9	13.0
18	4	Quadrant Grp	10		3.1	
85	62	Radiant Metal	65		..	
69	50½	Ransomes	54½		1.1	13.3
83	52½	Record	58¼		8.0	10.8
324	291	Renold	269		2.7	12.1
38	8½	Richards Group	8½			
89	71½	Richardson West	84½	...	5.4	9.6
270	187	Rolls-Royce	242½	+ 1½	2.6	24.0
277½	171	Rotork	267½		2.9	22.2
203	160	Rubicon	201½		3.7	14.9

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
238	221	Br Inv	226		3.0	35.1
77¼	67	Brazilian	71¼	...	2.2	
291	259	Brunner	283¼		2.8	
132	113	BZW Com	124		7.9	14.6
578½	468	Candover	573½	..	2.9	34.5
68	39	Central Euro Grth	60		0.9	
224½	177	Contl Assets	218		1.7	
75	62	Dartmoor Inv Inc	69½		14.8	7.3
405	325	Derby Cap	385			
160½	136	Derby Inc	160		17.6	6.3
744	654	Dunedin Inc G	704½	+ 1	5.0	24.6
158	127	Herald	139		0.6	..
94	71	High Income T	93		8.6	13.6
157	127	H Govett Smlr	140½	...	2.2	58.7
110½	88¾	HTR Jap Smaller	88½	+ ½	..	
17	9	I&S Ent	17			
156½	114	I&S UK Smlr	156	+ 1	2.3	36.5
149	129	Inv Cap	147¼	− ¾	4.6	25.8
157	99½	Int Biotech	100			
70	27½	Int Wts	27½	..		
115	84	Intl C	94			68.7
114	93¼	INVESCO Asia	100¾	+ ¼	0.7	
65	43	INVESCO Blue	47		22.3	4.8
181	135	INVESCO Eng Int	181	+ 2	0.8	60.9
92	67½	INVESCO Jap Ds	68½			
137	87½	INVESCO Korea	89½	+ 1	..	
69½	47	INVESCO Tokyo	48	+ ½		
95½	65	J Fry 2nd Utl	76		11.8	9.5
83	66½	J Fry Euro U	79	+ 1½	7.0	12.7
260	187	JF Fledg Jap	188¼			
90½	74	Jupiter Ex Inc	84		11.6	
7	4	Jupiter Ex Wt	4½			
235	147	M&G Dual Inc	152½	..	1.9	
66	55	M&G Inc Geared	59½		11.6	10.5
33	27	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	31			
34	29½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	29	+ ¼	24.2	5.0
135	122	M&G Inc Package	131		5.2	23.3
74½	65¼	M&G Inc Zero Div	71¼			
26	19½	M&G Rec Cap	20¾	..		
52	44½	M&G Rec Geared	46½		14.9	8.4
27	23	M&G Rec Inc	25½		27.8	4.5
150½	133	M&G Rec Package	147		4.7	26.7
101¾	88½	M&G Rec Zero Div	98½			
152	114	M Currie Euro	146½	+ ½	0.6	
112	89	M Currie Japan	91½	+ ¾		
167	143	M Currie Pac	149½	+ 1	0.8	..
244	222	Majedie	241		3.5	
290	235	Merchants	287½		6.1	22.1
107¾	91	Mercury Euro Pv	106		2.3	40.6
33	22½	Mercury Eur Wt	30			
110	88½	Mercury World	89¼		1.4	67.6
31	9¾	Mercury Wld Wts	9¼	− ¼		
629½	567	Monks Inv Tst	611	+ 2	2.0	48.8
170½	151	Morg Gren Inc	154½		4.9	
70½	52½	Morg Wts	54½			
78½	57½	Morg Lat Amer	70¼		0.5	
32	20	Morg Wts	23½			
131	111	Murray Ent	123½		2.9	
24	15	Murray Ent Wts	19			
95	71	Murray Emg Eco	71¼		1.6	64.4
35½	16½	Murray Eco Ex Wt	17	+ ¼		
68	54	Murray Euro	63¾	− ¼	0.7	

LEISURE & HOTELS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
248	179	Capital Corp	193½	..	5.2	31.5
86	50	Cliveden	68½		2.9	13.3
85	55	Clubhaus	80	− 1½		
251	160	Eurocamp	191½		7.2	9.2
208	124	Euro Disney	132½	+ ½		
200½	138¾	Euro Leisure	157½			4.1
19	11¼	Farringford	11½			
86	49½	First Choice	56		8.6	
400	337½	First Leisure	338½	− ½	2.9	19.7
180	142	Friendly Hotels	160	− ½	4.5	20.5
903½	619	Granada	882½	− 10	1.9	
57	25	Hi-Tec Sports	38½			15.4
245½	148	Hornby	244		2.3	
553	423	Hozelock	430	− 5	2.6	15.8
193	155	Jarvis Hotels	164	− 3		
301½	201	Jurys Hotel	255¾	− 2	3.2	
31½	19	Kunick	19¾	+ ¼	4.1	16.6
213	143	Ladbroke	200½	− ½	3.7	26.5
334½	212½	London Clubs	333	− ¼	2.9	22.1
595	189	Man Utd	561½	+ 9½	1.2	37.4
96¼	77½	Mandarin Orntl	88¾	+ 1¼	3.7	20.7

MEDIA

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
617	455	Abbott Mead	616		1.9	31.2
305	149	Adscene	154½	− 5½	6.9	10.4
66	37¾	Aegis Gp	61½		0.4	19.9
140	81¼	Atlantic Telecom	122½			
21	14	BBB Design	19	..		28.1
425	273	Barbour Index	336		3.5	39.1
9	5¼	Birchdale	7½	+ ¼		
370	325	Black (A&C)	370		4.7	13.0
502	238	Blenheim Gp	501		2.6	16.5
318	248	Border TV	303½		2.4	20.7
433	355	Bristol	430		4.1	22.9
697	376	BSkyB	536	+ 7½	1.3	36.2
188	129¾	CIA Gp	131		2.1	15.2
734	533	Capital Radio	561½	+ 16	2.8	19.2
534	379½	Carlton Comm	490½		2.6	16.6
558	363	Chrysalis	500		0.7	
92	75	City of Lon	85		7.5	12.4
138	90	Cordiant	99½			
1731¼	1300	Daily Mail	1425		1.6	34.7
1669¾	1103¾	Daily Mail A	1300	− 3¼	1.7	31.7
646	480	Dorling Kind	542½		1.0	34.6
795	530	EMAP	736½	− 3	2.0	25.3
1488	1080	ENII	1305	+ 10½	2.7	39.4
1091	845¼	Elsevier	997¼	− 3½	2.1	26.5
1338	1030	Euromoney Pb	1312½		4.1	35.1
43½	19	Fitch	35¼	...	...	10.2
694	440	Flextech	684			

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	82½	Aberdeen Tst	91		3.8	17.9
118½	77	BWD	107½		6.2	11.8
54½	34½	Berry Bch NM	52½		4.3	8.6
345	252	Biotec Inv	281	− 3		
205	151	Brewin Dolphin	190		4.9	11.8
805	695	Caledonia	745	− 2½	3.0	24.1
2550	1700	Camellia	2400	− 100	1.7	12.5
276	213	Cattles	250½	− 3½	3.6	16.9
42	18	Christie	37½			
151½	90	EFT Group	151½	+ 1	1.8	16.6
725	574	EFM	583½		5.4	25.8
118	50½	Exco	56½		16.6	9.5
1280	1075	Henderson Ad	1170	− 10	4.9	17.0
286	217	Invesco	263½	− 1½	2.3	15.3
97½	79½	Investment Co	94½		2.6	24.5
298	228	Ivory Sime	280½		3.7	20.9
230½	183¼	Jardine Strat	192	+ 2¼	4.5	

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
172½	98	Johnson Fry	146½	− 2	3.4	6.5
395	339	Liberty Intl	388	+ 1	4.9	27.0
295½	278	Lon Forfaiting	223	− 1½	4.6	12.3
261	215	London Pacific	217½	− 1	8.0	10.5
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	96½		3.4	18.2
186	139	Man ED & F	156½	− ½	8.1	7.5
1354	1051½	M & G	1051½	− 21	4.0	19.5
1167½	841	MAM	1160	+ 1½	4.2	19.4
109	90½	Nat Home Loan	102		1.2	4.5
2575	1830	Perpetual	2222½		3.3	16.1
500	395	Provident	468½	+ 2	4.0	17.6
336	310	Rathbone Brs	322½	+ 1½	4.1	14.4
60¾	37½	Rutland Tst	52¾		3.0	16.7
106	42	SEC Group	100		5.3	19.6
457	290	S & U	418½	− 6½	4.9	10.6
57	33	Towry Law	41½	− ½		
8	5	Trio Hldgs	5½			
360	162¾	Brit Biotech	226½	+ ½	..	
715	340	Cantab Pharms	590			
693	441	Celltech	482½	+ 2½		
588	224	Chiroscience	358½	+ 10		
447	166	Cortecs	192½	− 7		
1034½	767	Glaxo Well	953½	− 7½	3.9	13.6
475	252	ML Laboratories	362½			
286	208	Medeva	254½	+ 5½	2.1	14.4
248	175½	Peptide Thera	205	− 1½		
809	524	Scotia	570	+ 2½		
266	183	Shire Pharms	195	..		29.6
96	69	SkyePharma	83½			
829	628½	SmithKlineB	758½	− 2	2.5	27.4
532	445	Therp Anti Inc	456	− 5		
633	457½	Vanguard	565	− 2½		
1768½	1216	Zeneca	1688½	− 9	2.4	36.8

PRINTING & PAPER

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
155½	127¾	AG Holdings▲	142½		5.3	11.7
735	547	API	705		1.8	23.4
140	85½	App Hold	86½			
212	157½	Arjo Wiggins	157½	− 6½	6.0	
295	122½	Aspen Comm	134	− 5	5.4	11.2
422½	339	Bemrose	407½		4.5	13.6

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
522	258	Lloyds Chem	512		2.5	19.2
209½	149½	MFI	194	− 1½	2.8	22.8
533	416½	Marks Spencer	480		3.0	18.9
635	525	Menzies (John)	585	− 3	2.9	14.6
21½	15½	Merchant Retail	21	− ¼		24.8
1305	615	Moss Bros	1155	+ 5	2.1	23.6
607½	420	Next	576½	+ 5	2.8	23.5
65	31½	Olives (G)	38½			
562	400	Oriflame Intl	547½		2.7	18.2
85½	66	Partridge Fine	76		4.9	12.8
56	32	OS Hldgs	36½		5.1	
299½	191	Rosebys	280		2.7	21.0
105	85½	Sears	93	− 3	5.3	75.8
34	14½	Signet Group	25½			
534	399	Smith WH	439½	+ 11½	4.5	
1080	820	Sotheby's	1032½	− 22½	1.8	
362	264	Storehouse	269½	+ 4	5.3	15.4
157	90	Stylo	153½		2.8	22.9
231	165½	T & S Stores	175	..	5.2	11.2
410	292	Thorn	293½	− 8½	5.7	26.1
187½	158	Tie Rack	187		1.9	18.6
4	2½	Upton & South	3½			33.5
664	541½	Vendome	557½	− 3	2.3	20.2
29½	12	WEW Group	28			
141	66	Wickes	69		3.8	
94	57	Wld of Leather	68½		3.1	
235½	198	Wyevale	235½		3.1	17.6

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	883	ADT	1160			
369½	314½	AEA Tech	368½	− 19½	2.5	14.9
135	92	Alpha Airport	114½		5.5	14.6
39	26	Alphameric	36½			14.3
349½	215	Allum WS	344½	+ 2	2.1	27.8
190	129	BNB Resr	157½	− 1	5.4	8.5
400	283	BPP	360½		4.0	17.4
203	155	BSM	192½		4.6	12.7
2675	1015	BTG	2522½		0.2	
1350	400	Borland	500			
189	132	Brit Data Mgt	173½		3.9	20.9
110½	80	Brooks Service	92		4.3	14.7
500	373	Business Post	498	− 2	2.4	25.3
857½	329	CMG	856		0.9	39.5
276½	111½	CRT Grp	276		1.9	35.1
958½	187	Card Gp	662½		0.6	5.7
547½	265	Capita Group	456½	+ 1½	1.3	36.9
10½	5½	Charter	7½		2.6	12.6
386	309½	Christo Sec	326½	+ 3	3.2	16.2
195½	92	Corp Services	169½	− ½	3.3	30.6

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
87½	19	Abacus Recruit	54½			28.1
212	95	Cafe Inns	172½			12.4
171½	98	Country Gams	179	− 8½	3.0	17.9
1950	560	Dawson Hogs	1525		2.1	15.9
43½	14	Freepages	42½	− 2		
117	92	Kingsbornemada	95½			55.3
475	221½	Memory Corp	277	− 3		
160	95½	Old English Pubs	157		1.0	55.9
560	297½	Pet City	465			
391	155¼	Pharm Rsh	357			
595	520	Sandsom News	562½		3.3	14.7
73½	50	Southern Vectis	72½		2.4	16.2
342	122	Surrey Fr Assist	332		2.6	
79½	46	Tracker	47	− 7½		

Source: FT Information

⊕ USM # Price at suspension † Ex dividend ‡ Ex scrip ▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all § Ex capital distribution * Figures or report awaited ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index

BRITISH FUNDS

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100		6.98	6.52
107	100½	Treas 13¼% 1997	101½	−	13.19	6.15
107	100	Exch 10½% 1997	100	−	10.40	6.36
107	101½	Treas 8¾% 1997	101	−	8.61	6.55
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	107½	−	13.95	6.62
106½	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	103	−	9.45	6.74
100	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	−	7.21	6.80
116	109	Treas 14% 1998-01	110	−	12.72	6.88
122	114½	Treas 15½% 1998	114	−	13.52	6.92
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	109	−	10.99	7.01
108	97	Treas 9½% 1999	104	−	9.06	7.03
116	110	Exch 12¼% 1999	111	−	11.02	6.96
112	107	Treas 10½% 1999	107	−	9.74	7.06
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
125	118	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121	−	9.70	7.42
108	101	Treas 8½% 2007	106	−	7.97	7.58
112	103	Treas 9% 2008	110	−	8.13	7.62
104½	96	Treas 8% 2009	102½	−	7.80	7.62
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88	81½	Treas 6¼% 2010	87	−	7.15	7.74
112	104	Conv 9% 2011	111	−	8.11	7.73
113	104	Treas 9% 2012	111¼	−	8.09	7.74
82	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	−	6.73	7.49
103	93	Treas 8% 2013	102	−	7.82	7.75
101	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	100	−	7.75	7.74
103½	95	Treas 8% 2015	102	−	7.80	7.73
111½	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	−	7.97	7.79
141½	130	Exch 12% 2013-17	140	−	8.57	7.72

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■ CINEMA

Lon Chaney is restored to his hideous best as the 1925 *Phantom of the Opera* is screened in London

■ MUSIC 1

The Kronos Quartet sound a little colourless as they close the American Festival on the South Bank

THE TIMES

ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

. . . but Roger Norrington leads the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in boisterous style

■ MUSIC 3

. . . and the veteran Spanish soprano Teresa Berganza is in superb form at the Wigmore Hall

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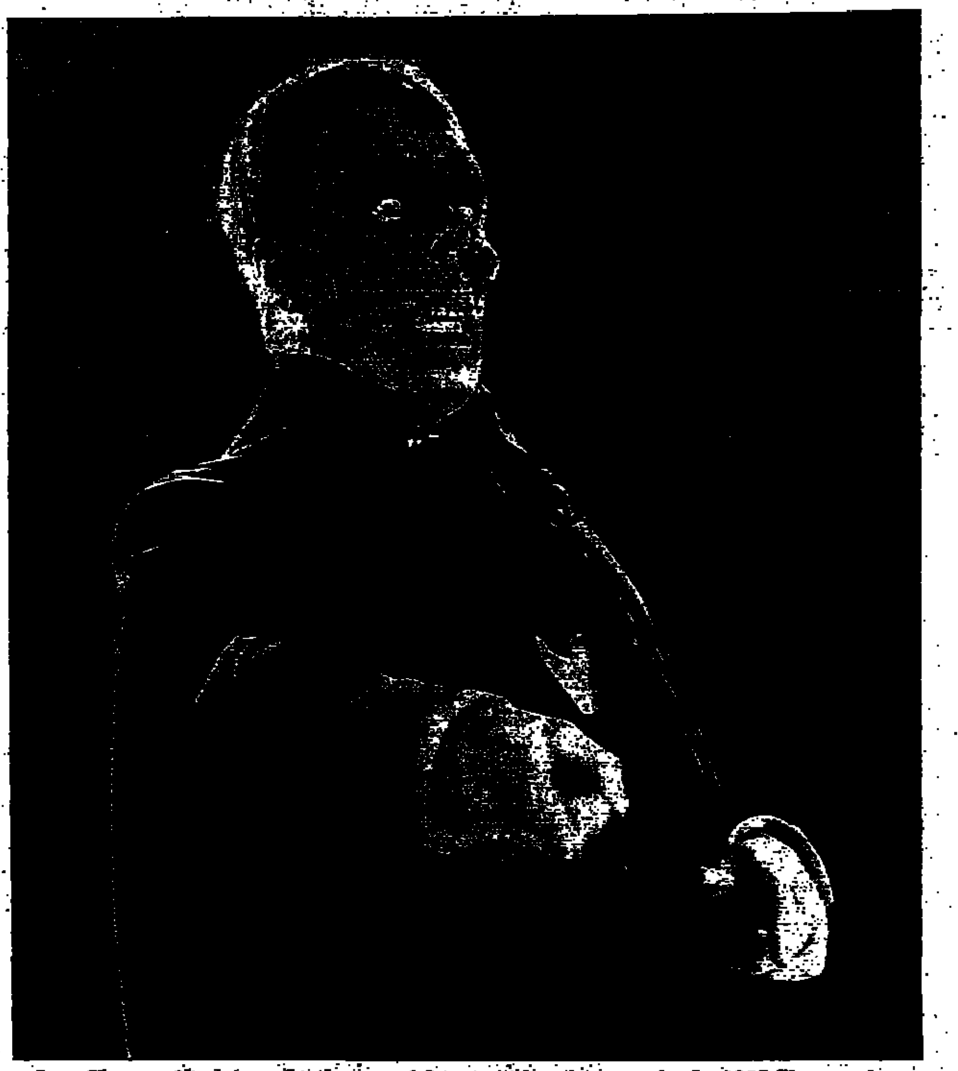
Screams in silence

Geoff Brown welcomes a new screening of the 1925 *Phantom of the Opera*



Lon Chaney, the man of a thousand faces, as the phantom in the 1925 film version

Pandemonium at the Paris Opera. Chorus girls blanch and scuttle away. Stagehands freeze as a sinister shadow suddenly appears against a brick wall. The word spreads quickly: "The Phantom is up from the cellars again!"

These days Erik, the phantom of the opera, never seems to have an evening in. Every night the misshapen creature prowls the world's theatres in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version of Gaston Leroux's novel. And now Lon Chaney comes back to haunt us, courtesy of Universal's silent film of 1925.

At the Festival Hall tomorrow, as part of the London Film Festival, a newly restored version from Channel 4 and Photoplay Productions will be unveiled, with an orchestral accompaniment composed and conducted by Carl Davis.

One American trade reviewer considered Universal's production "probably the greatest inducement to nightmare that has yet been screened". Seventy years on, tomorrow's audience will probably enjoy a restful night after the screening. Even the celebrated descent of the chandelier looks painless today.

But several sequences still produce a genuine frisson. The masked ball, originally shot in two-colour Technicolor and restored with the aid of surviving footage, has a colossal interior set of the Paris Opera. Suddenly, down the Grand Stairway, the phantom appears as the Red Death, his face a hideous grinning skull.

Another moment transpires on the opera house roof, when the phantom's scarlet cloak whirls around the night sky: a sequence originally tinted by an obscure process named after its inventor, Max Handschiegl, and recreated to impressive effect by the miracle of digital technology.

The third occurs when the phantom lures his soprano protégée Christine Daaé, played by Mary Philbin, to sepulchral chambers below. Up to now, Chaney's features have been half-hidden, swathed in a cloak, or obscured by a mask. The phantom wisely advises her not to touch a thing. This gives his face the lure of forbidden fruit, and Christine impulsively tears away the mask.

The camera takes the audience's viewpoint and we see the horror before she does: a skewered nose, distended nostrils, craggy teeth, hollow eyes, hollower cheeks with cheekbones almost poking through the wizened skin. Then the phantom turns round and Christine sees the horror.

No other film version makes the phantom's unmasking so memorable. None has created a phantom capable, against the odds, of touching your heart. For this, Chaney must take most of the credit. He has a clear talent for pantomime, and an ability to humanise the most deformed creatures.

Gaston Leroux — detective novelist, journalist and inveterate traveller — needs saluting too, for creating a tale that survives the years no matter what havoc adaptors wreak. In the original novel of 1910, Erik was a circus freak who had helped build the Paris Opera; in Chaney's version, he is a crazed escapee from Devil's Island, once imprisoned in a torture chamber on the Opera site. In the 1943 Universal remake he is a bitter composer, disfigured by acid.

The setting balances the realistic with the fantastic. Beneath the ornate public spaces of the Paris Opera lurk unsuspected lakes, silhouettes that give you the shivers, and a phantom hideaway festooned with plush drapery and the odd open coffin. This dream world, built to designs by Ben Carré who had served as a scene painter at the Paris Opera, unwittingly created a visual template for every *Phantom* that followed.

Rupert Julian, the director of the 1925 version, was a journeyman talent who found sudden prominence when he stepped in to finish Erich von Stroheim's *Merry-go-Round* in 1923. He celebrated his rise to fame by adopting Stroheim's vices: acting autocratic, and shooting endless retakes. After a disastrous preview, the film was withdrawn for recutting and re-shooting, with a no-nonsense director of westerns and comedies, Edward Sedgwick, at the helm.

The film was overhauled in 1929, being reissued as a part-talkie, with singing and screams. A silent reissue was also prepared, and it is this version which has survived today in the best condition and forms the basis for the Photoplay restoration. Moves are now afoot in America to restore the original 1925 release, which only survives complete on 16mm.

There are other *Phantoms* floating around. In 1993, shortly before he died, the composer Roy Budd completed a restoration blessed with a succulent score but cursed with inferior images: the version is now planned for issue on CD and video. It's obvious that the *Phantom* will haunt us for eternity.

● The Phantom of the Opera, *with Carl Davis conducting the Live Cinema Orchestra, will be performed at the Festival Hall tomorrow at 7.30pm (0171-960 4242)*

CONCERTS: The Kronos off-key; authentic Romantics; veteran triumph

Howl but little heart

The Kronos Quartet: misfiring

THE American Independents festival came to a conclusion at the Festival Hall with the **Kronos Quartet**, who more than qualify as American independents. But like some of their adopted composers, they can be better on big ideas than on execution.

It was unfortunate that they followed the Arditti Quartet last week. By comparison, the Kronos sounded colourless. Their flat, clean articulation, so apt for Minimalist epic and ethnic experiment, made a solemn comedy of Ives's student Quartet; even the tuning was poor.

A big idea lay behind Lee Hyla's *Howl*, music written alongside a moto perpetuo recitation of Allen Ginsberg's poem. But if Ginsberg intended *Howl* to be an "emotional time bomb that would continue exploding", then its shockwaves are long gone. In sheer volume the words overwhelmed Hyla's music, little of which drew on the speech rhythms or intonations. Nevertheless, its delicate inventions deserve a fairer hearing.

The Kronos excel in works which require the cool poise of ritual. Aural ritual became visual theatre in the stunning staging of George Crumb's *Black Angels*, designed by Larry Neff. Economy of means characterises Crumb's fearful masterpiece, inspired by the Vietnam War: screeches of "electric insect" music; a muted fragment from Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*; the unearthly rasp of a bowed tam-tam; a human voice counting. The staging echoed this restraint. This sonic journey to war has not dated, and Crumb himself was clearly moved by the performance.

HELEN WALLACE

Colossus at the keyboard

ALEXEI LUBIMOV is one of the more remarkable figures to bestride the old and new Russia. A leprechaun of a man, he is a Colossus of a musician. The virtuosity of his fingers is testament to his being one of the last piano pupils of the great Heinrich Neuhaus who taught Sviatoslav Richter. Yet Lubimov also gave the Moscow premiere of works by John Cage in 1968 and, in the years when he was denied permission to perform outside the Soviet Union, he studied and pioneered period keyboard performance.

It was as a fortepianist that he appeared at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** and **Roger Norrington** in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1 in C. Using one of Olga Tverskaya's instruments, a copy of a Viennese 1823 Brodmann fortepiano, Lubimov drew back his first solo entry into a limpid, romantic reflection.

A highly stylised and idiomatic rubato gave sustaining power to the slow movement, and was an eloquent partner to the full-throated song of Antony Pay's solo clarinet. Under Norrington, the movement was nearer an andante than a largo, so the finale had to be no less than a presto. To the credit of every player, it retained its *scherzando* character even at speed.

The concerto had been framed by Mendelssohn: first a marvellously aqueous clarinet-led *Melusine* overture, then the *Scottish Symphony*. Taking scarcely a breath between movements, Norrington performed the work rather as a suite of Highland dances.

The slow movement made its effect by the plangency of its minimal string vibrato and the austerity of its woodwind chording. The bassoons and natural horns were pushed excitingly to their limits in a finale whose bagpipe boisterousness caused much amusement within the orchestra and delight in the auditorium.

HILARY FINCH

Veteran vocal agility

TERESA BERGANZA may be nearing the end of her career, but one wouldn't have known it from the recital she gave to a packed Wigmore Hall. Her tone remains velvety and smooth, and the vocal agility is still there.

Of course, the great Spanish mezzo-soprano knows how to manage her voice. She saved all the risks for the end of the evening. In five generous encores she displayed her celebrated strengths, notably in Rossini's *Cruda sorte!*, sung with commanding ease. Her Habanera from *Carmen* had light, laughing seductiveness, and she disclosed more of her wit in the tipsy *Ah, quel diner!* from *La Périchole*.

The programme began with an account of Haydn's *Arianna a Naxos* that came across like a noble operatic *scena*. Six Rossini songs came next. The early *Se il vuol la mulinara* had simple charm, the lines of *Addio di Rossini* were smooth and seamless, and the *Arietta alla espagnuola* rounded off the group with cascading brilliance.

After the interval Berganza brought soft radiance to Fauré's *Clair de lune* and elegance to his *Mandolin*. She caught the heartache in Hahn's *D'une prison*, and conjured up each vivid image in his *Paysage*. Each miniature in Falla's Seven Spanish Popular Songs was strongly characterised. The final *Polo* had Moorish fire, and it was a special treat to hear Berganza sing in her native tongue.

JOHN ALLISON

■ NEW FILMS

Kansas City offers jazz, sleaze and kidnapping, but the cocktail is not vintage Robert Altman

■ NEW FILMS

... whereas the comedy thriller *Mr Reliable* displays the cream of the new Aussie talent

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ NEW FILMS

David Mamet's *American Buffalo* receives big-screen intensity from a cast led by Dustin Hoffman

■ NEW FILMS

... while in *The Sunchaser* Michael Cimino turns a road movie into pretentious social commentary

CINEMA: The jazz running through Robert Altman's *Kansas City* fails to lift the spirits, says **Geoff Brown**

Sour smell of jam and corruption

Come on, boys, let's hear some music! So says Harry Belafonte's Seldom Seen, gangster lord of the Hey Hey Club, the Depression-era hotbed of jazz in Robert Altman's Kansas City. And so we do. Jazz musicians jam all night, and lock horns in duels. Modern representations of Lester Young and Coleman Hawkins battle with their saxophones, while young Charlie Parker looks on from the balcony. The camera swerves from player to player. Our feet tap. It's hard not to feel exhilarated.

Yet Robert Altman's problematic new film, financed by the French company CIBY 2000, is far from being a festive salute to the music the director knew as a child in Kansas City, his home town. The jazz sessions serve as interludes in a sour portrait of corruption, political and social: the American dream turned into a nightmare. The year is 1934; the time, just before national elections. A kidnapping is in progress. Blondie O'Hara, a telegraph operator who has seen too many Jean Harlow movies, aims a gun and captures socialite Carolyn Stilton, the laudanum-drenched wife of a Roosevelt aide. Her goal? The release of her worthless husband Johnny, a two-bit hood currently being tortured by Belafonte.

Sounds interesting? Think again. Blondie is played by Jennifer Jason Leigh, who has delved into her bag of mannerisms to come up with a new squawk and grimaces galore. She makes the character tiresome; though Altman's wayward script, co-written with his *Short Cuts* colleague Frank Barhydt, scarcely helps Blondie's mission by erasing background details and rendering her husband so colourless. But there is some good news. Blondie kidnaps Miranda Richardson, a sensible actress fully alert to the comic potential of a socialite dragged over town, befuddled by drugs. Belafonte is absorbing too, swathing his gangster in a chilling version of the easy charm once lavished on such songs as *Mary's Boy Child*.

While Leigh and Richardson edge towards friendship, and jazz riffs spiral into the smoky air, Altman fills the gaps in between with mob thuggery, some of it perpetrated by Steve Buscemi as he pads out the voters with cartloads of drunks and bums. Altman has described the entire film as imbued with jazz: the actors, he says, do riffs as much as the musicians, as their talk wanders from the plot. But we associate jazz with vitality: jam sessions aside, there is too much cold artifice and misanthropy in Altman's creation for anyone to be uplifted for long.

The film also looks artificial. Period cars prowl those tidy streets that only exist on a Hollywood set. Inside the Hey Hey Club, everything is brown. On a technical level Stephen Altman's production design may be exemplary, but it displays neither a poetic imagination nor the hard edge of reality. You never feel you are in Kansas City. You never feel Robert Altman was there either: he could have dreamt up this place from other people's movies.

Tiresome kidnapper Jennifer Jason Leigh squawks and grimaces while her victim, Miranda Richardson, exploits her character's comic potential in *Kansas City*

One of the great virtues of **Mr Reliable** is its sense of place. The time is 1968. The location: a nondescript suburb of Sydney, baking in the summer heat. Wally Mellish, a petty criminal just out of prison, rents a house. "Don't worry about No 5 Glenfield Road," he tells the owner, "nothing's going to happen there." But that is before he fires a shotgun at police investigating the theft of crests from Jaguar cars (he needed them for mantelpiece ornaments).

The police overreact, and assume he is holding a woman and child hostage. The woman is his new girlfriend Beryl. Suddenly we have a siege; and the area buzzes with onlookers, the media, entrepreneurs selling sausages, hapless cops, and the best in late Sixties hair and clothing. Meanwhile, Wally and Beryl get married, with the Police Commissioner as best man. He later becomes a hostage himself: "Milk or sugar, Mr Allen?" Beryl asks, a gun pointing into his mouth.

Ever since her first feature, *Malcolm*, the Australian director Nadia Tass has been partial to whimsical comedy about misfits. But *Mr Reliable* is no scriptwriter's fancy: the bizarre events actually happened, and the film fruitfully feeds off the protest feelings stirred by the Vietnam War. Mellish, played with ebullient charm by Colin Friels, becomes a modern folk hero, a simple, uneducated Aussie who makes clowns of the hated Establishment.

Tass develops the tale with due regard for comedy and suspense, and never allows the characters to decline into caricature. The forces of law and order, the media hounds, the prickly neighbours: all have their place in the sun. And Beryl herself is a winner, a spunky lass determined to enjoy domestic bliss even during siege warfare. Jacqueline McKenzie's performance, following turns in *Romper Stomper* and *Angel Baby*, confirms her position as one of Down Under's rising stars.

"You tire me out, Walt. I need a rest." So do we after a dose of Dustin Hoffman in **American Buffalo**. Entering the film kicking litter, and looking immaculately grungy with stubble and stringy hair, Hoffman's small-time hustler lets loose an avalanche of words. Walt's pal Donny, the junk-shop owner played by Dennis Franz, dumps his own mountain too. For this is David Mamet country. People talk. And talk. And talk. They talk about business, loyalty and friendship; and they talk dirty.

But what else would you expect? This is a film of Mamet's early play (1975), and any opening out would weaken its force. Aside from a few street exteriors, we remain locked in the junk-shop overnight, as Donny and Walt plan to rob a customer who had bought a collector's item, a buffalo-headed nickel, at too cheap a price. Donny wants to use his young gofer (Sean Nelson) and cut him in on the profits; Walt has other ideas, and is not above wrecking the shop to make his point.

Michael Corrente, the director, has a definite feeling for the dingier kind of small-town lives: he showed this in *Federal Hill*. But *American Buffalo* belongs to Mamet's script and the actors. Hoffman is impressive, though he lacks the dynamism Al Pacino brought to the stage role in London; while Franz displays a depth scarcely suggested by his TV cop roles. As a cinema experience, *American Buffalo* is too small and sombre for wide acceptance: quality is there, though.

If *American Buffalo* hems you in, Michael Cimino is more than happy to show you wide open spaces in **The Sunchaser**, his first film in six years. This is a road movie with pretensions, driven by two characters at loggerheads. One is Woody Harrelson, a priggish LA doctor; the other is Jon Seda, a cancer-stricken teenager who escapes prison transportation, kidnaps the doc, and forces him to drive to a Navajo mountain for spiritual salvation.

Cimino means to turn their journey into a report on the state of the nation. He fills the screen with clever arrangements of rock, sand and Tarmac, and some choice visual conceits. Note the American flag carefully reflected in the car's smashed side-view mirror. But Charles Leavitt's script cannot sustain the weight Cimino applies: any serious ideas are half-baked, and clichès multiply as doc and patient head for the hills. "It's been real." Seda says as the two take their leave. *Real?*

Gabbeh is half-real, half-fantastic. Mohsen Makhmalbaf, one of Iran's liveliest directors, began by wanting to make a documentary about the carpet-weaving tribes of south-east Iran. But a story intruded, and the film took flight, becoming an extraordinary visual experience bathed, like the tribe's clothes, in the brightest of colours: turquoise, pink, purple, yellow.

The tribe's brand of carpet, known as "gabbeh", traditionally documents their own experiences. Makhmalbaf follows suit, and the story he tells of a young woman kept from marrying the man she loves finds its way into the gorgeous carpet woven before us. Most Iranian cinema seen in Britain has followed the realist line; Makhmalbaf, 40 next year, opens a window on to a poetic tradition. A schoolteacher reaches out to the sky to explain about colour: his hand becomes blue. A single figure stands in a landscape of snow and hills. Man and nature, art and life: they all become fused in *Gabbeh*, a small jewel of pure cinema.

Kansas City
ABC Shaftesbury Ave, 15, 115 mins
Crime and corruption plus lots of jazz in Robert Altman's home town

Mr Reliable
Warner West End, 15, 113 mins
Engaging true-life Aussie comedy

American Buffalo
Metro, 15, 90 mins
Powerful adaptation of David Mamet's play

The Sunchaser
Warner West End, 15, 123 mins
Windy Michael Cimino film

Gabbeh
ICA Cinema, 75 mins
Poetic jewel from Iran

SNAP VERDICT

☐ **KANSAS CITY**

Ben Peters, 22: I found Jennifer Jason Leigh so annoying in this I almost walked out. She was ludicrously over-the-top.

Lucy Knight, 22: I'm a big Robert Altman fan, but I found this a bit of a let-down. It felt a bit too contrived.

Richard Wright, 20: I don't like jazz at all, so I found much of this quite dull.

Holly Peters, 20: Not my cup of tea. It was unnecessarily complicated, and I found Jennifer Jason Leigh bugged me as much as she did in *Mrs Parker*.

☐ **MR RELIABLE**

Ben: Although not as funny as other recent Australian comedies, this is worth a look. Colin Friels is excellent.

Lucy: Not too bad, although I found the humour a bit wearing.

Richard: This didn't split my sides, but occasionally made them ache. It kept me gripped as well.

Holly: This will be a perfect film to rent on video. I can't believe anybody would fail to laugh.

☐ **THE SUNCHASER**

Ben: I'm surprised Cimino thought he needed to make another buddy movie. Thumbs down.

Lucy: Although the performances were good, I felt that the film was a bit lightweight.

Richard: I enjoyed this and even found it quite moving. Woody Harrelson was well up to his best.

Holly: I thought much of this was a bit dull, especially as I find films about men crying boring.

JAZZ: High volume dims Marisa Monte's lyrics at the Barbican; plus Marion Montgomery at Pizza On The Park

Brief glimpses of sensuality

For the second time in less than a week a singer came unstuck due to a woeful sound mix. What made Marisa Monte's *Oris Jazz Festival* show at the Barbican even more frustrating than Carmen Lundy's earlier concert was that so much care had been lavished on a video installation which, to be honest, added little to our appreciation of the songs.

How ironic, then, that the Brazilian vocalist's new album should be called *A Great Noise*. Even allowing for the language barrier, it was a struggle to decipher the lyrics amid the churning over-amplification of Monte's guitars-and-drums backing.

On the rare occasions when the volume levels dropped, it was possible to appreciate exactly why this tirelessly eclectic performer has been acclaimed as one of the spiritual heirs to Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil (a link that was made explicit by her borrowing of the song *Panis et Circensis*).

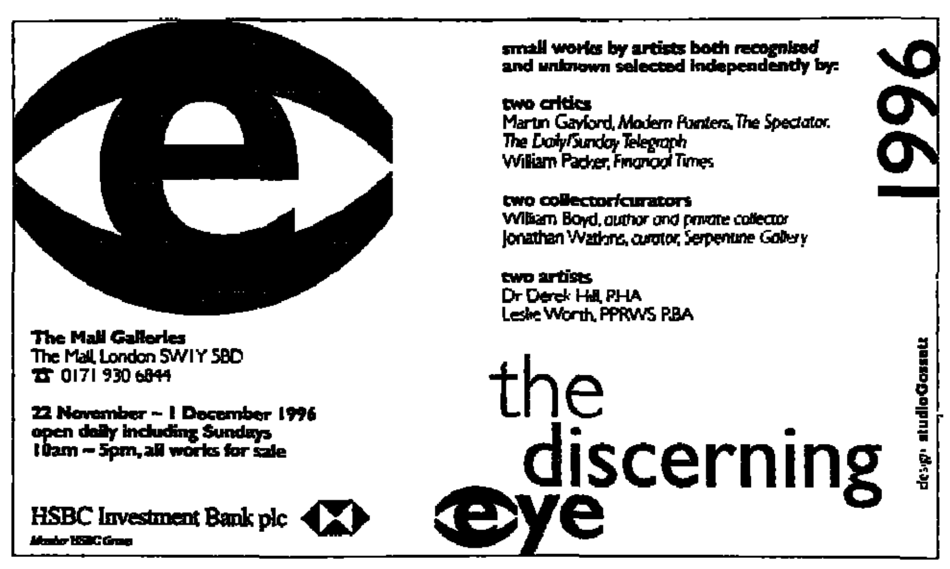
Following their example, Monte borrows heavily from the vocabulary of Western pop, even throwing in a graceful cover version of George Harrison's *Give Me Love*. On the evidence of this performance, though, she runs the risk of allowing the remorseless four-square rock beat to smother her sensuous heritage. It may be naive to long for the tone poems of Ipanema, but some of us prefer nostalgia to the smoke stacks of Sao Paulo.

That there is nothing to be ashamed of in looking to the past was illustrated by Marion Montgomery's urbane tribute to Johnny Mercer at Pizza On The Park. Mercer's lyrics are a distinctive combination of the poetic and the demotic; and Montgomery possesses exactly the right temperament to draw out the full measure of emotion and worldliness in *Come Rain Or Come Shine*, for instance, or *Blues In The Night*.

Laurie Holloway's trio arrangements are models of their kind, inventive but never intrusive. Stripped to essentials, Montgomery's stark and vulnerable account of *Days of Wine and Roses* allowed us to ponder the words as if hearing them for the very first time.

CLIVE DAVIS

JASON LEIGH
BELAFONTE
RICHARDSON
'STUNNING!' Evening Standard
'MARVELLOUS!' Premiere
'Jennifer Jason Leigh is superb, Miranda Richardson is even better!' The Face
A FILM BY ROBERT ALTMAN
KANSAS CITY 15
STARTS TOMORROW
SHAFTESBURY AVE
CHELSEA·CINEMA
EVERYMAN



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■ CHOICE 1

Alec McCowen leads *The Cherry Orchard* into the West End

VENUE: Now in preview at the Albery

■ CHOICE 2

Meaty chunks of *Parsifal* are on Simon Rattle's menu this evening

VENUE: Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tonight

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VIDEOS

***Trainspotting*, the most provocative British film of 1995, is in the shops**

■ RECORDS

John Eliot Gardiner brings a controversial authentic touch to bear on familiar Beethoven

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

THE CHERRY ORCHARD A tremendous RSC cast, headed by Penelope Wilton, Alec McCowen and David Troughton, in a production by Adrian Noble, considered the best in living memory.
Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Previews begin tonight 7.30pm. Opens November 25, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

EAST IS EAST Co-production with Tamasha Theatre Co and Birmingham Rep. Ayub Khan Din's poignant and funny account of growing up in Salford in the 1970s as the youngest of seven mixed race children, torn between the mosque and modern England.
Royal Court Upstairs at the Ambassadors (Stage), West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Opens tonight 7pm. Tomorrow, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3.30pm.

NEW MOVES IN AFRICAN DANCE
Sakoba Dance Theatre performs four short new works, beginning with *Travelling*, a powerful solo by Bode Lawal, the company's artistic director. *Itu Sile*, a piece for four dancers, is followed by *Junk Junkie*, another solo for Bode. The company finale, *Tiv Trus*, is inspired by the male courtship dances of the Nigerian Tiv tribe.
Purcell Room South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight and tomorrow 8pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM Sir Simon Rattle conducts the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** in Wagner's powerful Eastertide opera, *Parsifal* (Prelude to Act I and Act III complete). With Wolfgang Schöne as Amfortas, Poul Elming as Parsifal, Robert Lloyd as Gurnemanz, the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus and the Philharmonia Chorus.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm ◩

IPSWICH Premiere of Judith Cook's new play, **The Devil's Cardinal**, about a local butcher's boy making good. Michael Tudor Barnes plays Thomas Wolsey — and what theatre more appropriate to stage his story?
Wolsey Civic Drive (01473 253725). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tue-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mats Wed and Thur (Nov 28), 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

STRATFORD The 1996/97 season at the main house opens with Alex Jennings and Siobhan Redmond playing Benedick and Beatrice in **Much Ado About Nothing**. Michael Boyd directs, Tom Piper designs.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789 295623). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Nov 27, 7pm. Joined in repertoire by *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in December. ◩

YORK **Phoenix Dance** returns home to perform a stimulating repertoire. The company, of ten, is celebrating 15 years of stylish dance with *White Picket Fence*, a multi-media piece set to Vivaldi's Oboe Concerto No 1. *Eve's Reflection* by choreographer Pamela L. Johnson was inspired by the sculpture of Rodin while *Covering Ground*, by American choreographers Shapiro and Smith, is an athletic exploration of friendship.
Theatre Royal, St Leonard's Place (01904 623568). Tonight-Sat, 8pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Alan Cristea David Hockney (0171-439 1866) **Anthony d'Offay** Tatsuo Miyajima, Liza May Post (0171-499 4100) **British Museum** Mysteries of Ancient China (0171-636 1555) **Curwen** H-Dieter Pietsch: Junctures Recent Works (0171-636 1459) **Festival Hall** Masks '96 (0171-960 4242) **National Theatre** Dazzle (0171-928 2035) **Redfern** Leon Underwood and his Pupils (0171-734 1732) **Royal Academy** From Mantegna to Picasso (0171-439 7438) **Tom Blau** Open Ended, new work from nine contemporary photographers (0171-378 1300)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ House full, returns only
- ◩ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

■ **ART** Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in an exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white canvas. Matthew Warchus directs.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

☐ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC** Tom Mannion plays the cove with the conk in Communicado's celebrated production by Gerry Mulgrew.
Almeida Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2pm.

◩ **DEATH OF A SALESMAN** Alun Armstrong plays the hollow man deluded by slogans in a competent production of Miller's drama.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.15pm, mats Sat and Wed, 2.15pm. In rep.

■ **HAMLET** Michael Maloney a profoundly incestuous Prince in Philip Franks's modern dress production.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until November 30.

■ **THE HERBAL BED** Peter Whelan's thrilling exploration around a true incident in the life of Shakespeare's daughter. Moral attitudes questioned, love tested. Michael Attenborough directs a splendid cast.
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. In rep.

☐ **LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR** Neil Simon's funny account of working among a team of scriptwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid.
Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

☐ **OLD WICKED SONGS** Bob Hoskins returns to the stage to play a Viennese music professor teaching Schumann to an arrogant young pianist (James Callis). Elijah Moshinsky directs Jon Marans's play, said to be humorous, poignant and wise.
Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tue, 2.30pm, and Sat, 4pm.

◩ **SCROOGE** Anthony Newley back on the West End stage singing the title role in the Leslie Bricusse musical.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-636 2295). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

☐ **SHAKESPEARE FOR MY FATHER** Lynn Redgrave used Shakespeare to illustrate her emotions for her father, Sir Michael.
Theatre Royal Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. ◩

☐ **WHEN WE ARE MARRIED** Dawn French, Alison Steadman and Leo McKern head the cast of Jude Kelly's production of the Priestley evergreen.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

◩ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?** Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.15pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ◩ **Cats** New London (0171-405 0072) ☐ **Jolson** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ◩ **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-434 0909) ◩ **Miss Saigon** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ◩ **Sunset Boulevard** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ☐ **Tommy** Shaftesbury (0171-379 5399) ☐ **The Woman in Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE DAY THE SUN TURNED COLD (12): Spellbinding Hong Kong drama about family violence, secret love and murder, set in China's northeast.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721)

◆ **THE FIRST WIVES CLUB** (PG): Broad comedy about vengeful Manhattan wives, with juicy parts for Diane Keaton, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn. Director, Hugh Wilson.
Barbican ◩ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ◩ (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE ISLAND OF DR MOREAU** (12): Partially, pointlessly adaptation of H.G. Wells's tale, with Marlon Brando, Val Kilmer and David Thewlis.
Empire ◩ (0990 888 990) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** ◩ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

TRUE BLUE (15): Chronicle of fire on the River Thames: a conventional account of the 1987 mutiny among Oxford's boat race team. With Johan Leysen and Dominic West.
Odeon Leicester Square (01426 915683)

CURRENT

◆ **BRASSED OFF** (15): Yorkshire colliery band fights for survival. Sugary comedy with a few drops of vinegar. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor. Director, Mark Herman.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Empire** (0800-888 911) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

THE EIGHTH DAY (PG): Harassed businessman is humanised by a Down's syndrome sufferer. Macabre disappointment from Jaco Van Dormael. With Daniel Auteuil.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **THE FAN** (18): Psychotic baseball fan Robert De Niro stalks his idol, Wesley Snipes. Wearisome and empty fare from director Tony Scott.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◩ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** ◩ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990)

◆ **THE NUTTY PROFESSOR** (12): Vulgar reworking of the old Jerry Lewis film, with Eddie Murphy as the mild professor who creates a sleek alter ego.
Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) **Plaza** ◩ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031)

THE PILLOW BOOK (18): Astounding Peter Greenaway film. With Vivian Wu, Ewan McGregor.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

Getting high on the low road

NEW ON VIDEO

■ **TRAINSPOTTING**
PolyGram. 18, 1995

THIS abrasive look at junkie life, adapted from Irvine Welsh's novel by the *Shallow Grave* team, and the most attention-grabbing British film released this year, can now be yours to own in a special boxed set. Contents include a widescreen copy of the film, footage of eight cut scenes, interviews with participants, and several silly trinkets (sunglasses, lighter).

■ **THE CONFESSIONAL**
Artificial Eye. 15, 1995

THEATRE wizard Robert Lepage makes a spectacular cinema debut with this seductive drama partly inspired by Hitchcock's visit to Quebec to film *I Confess* in 1952. Identity, truth, fact versus fiction, clashing cultures: the themes are complex, but Lepage's exuberant handling of his new medium brings constant surprises and joys. With Lothaire Bluteau as the man who returns from China to Quebec and gets sucked into a quest for his adopted brother's father.

■ **DENISE CALLS UP**
Artificial Eye. 15, 1995

LIGHTWEIGHT, appealing lifestyle comedy from new American director Hal Salwen, about a group of New York workaholics whose social lives take place entirely through telecommunications. They converse by phone, by fax, by laptop, and never meet face to face. The material is stretched too thin, but an agreeable, largely unfamiliar cast, and Salwen's gift for mordant one-liners all help to create a film that tickles the brain and pleases the eye.

■ **KANSAS CITY — JAZZ '34**
Wienerworld. E, 1996

ROBERT ALTMAN'S 55-minute video companion to his new film *Kansas City* (see review, page 37) expands on the jazz sessions that provide much period flavour to this kidnapping drama set in the director's birthplace. Contemporary musicians recreate the sounds of the 1930s, when Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Lester Young and others made the city a jazz mecca. The music's vitality is considerable, but cinema buffs may grow tired of the restricted colour palette (brown) and the camera lurching from player to player in the smoky ambience of the Hey Hey Club.

■ **MR HOLLAND'S OPUS**
PolyGram. PG, 1995

WELL-MEANING, sentimental piffle about a high-school music teacher's 30-year career, set in an idealised small-town world that has no place for drugs or violence, loves to watch a marching band, and knows what the word opus means. Richard Dreyfuss attacks his part with enough gusto to earn him a Best Actor Oscar nomination, but you cannot construct a solid character from soap bubbles. The director is Stephen Herek. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

Trainspotting was the most attention-grabbing British film of 1995

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Finishing Schubert; energetic Emperor; Rossini's Bulgarian mezzo

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■ **SCHUBERT**
Quartettsatz.etc
Allegri Quartet
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NOT everyone would agree with Professor Brian Newbould that Schubert's incompletion of the early, exploratory C minor Quartet (now known as the *Quartettsatz*) was a tragedy: indeed, one could argue that the "unfinished" element in Schubert's *oeuvre* is a revealing and essential part of the composer's own makeup. Nevertheless, nobody could fairly take issue with the motivation behind the professor's completion of Schubert's second-movement fragment.

Most quartets play only the complete, opening *Allegro assai*: Newbould's completion does act as an incentive to the performance of the sweet, steady, triple-metre song which follows. And when Schubert's opening bars (he wrote only 37) return towards the end of Newbould's own six-minutes' worth, the delight is redoubled.

As for his own invention: there is, perhaps, too much sequential development, but the distribution of parts and the modulations are sensitively handled. Haydn's Op 33 Quartet in C and Ravel's Quartet in F, in perceptive performances, are the gentle soulmates on this thoughtfully programmed disc.

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■ **BEETHOVEN**
Piano Concerto No 5; Choral Fantasy
Levin/Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique/Gardiner
Archiv 447 771-2★★★ £12.99

ONCE you have recovered from the initial shock of hearing the cascading arpeggios of the *Emperor Concerto* given out on a delicate fortepiano instead of a sonorous concert grand, there are no insuperable barriers to the enjoyment of this period-instrument version of a warhorse. Indeed, as Robert Levin points out in his interesting booklet note, the sense of struggle for a fortepiano against orchestral forces is all the more titanic. What Levin and John Eliot Gardiner project so strongly in this account are energy in the phrasing and a powerful forward thrust, rather than the traditional expansive, majestic qualities of the score.

Yet their reading allows for passages of mystery and rumination between the main *tutti* statements, and Levin even manages to conjure an improvisatory air at such moments. Improvisation is very much Levin's forte, so to speak, and listeners wishing to recapture something of the atmosphere of the first performance of the Choral Fantasy, when Beethoven himself improvised the opening solo, can programme two alternative versions by Levin to precede the main work. Orchestral and choral forces make a spirited contribution to a convincing performance under Gardiner.

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OPERA

John Higgins

■ **ROSSINI**
Tancredi
Mei/Kasarova/Vargas/Munich Radio Orchestra/R. Abbado
RCA 09026 68349-2 (3 CDs)★★★ £43.99

ROSSINI'S first major serious opera, *Tancredi* is also the first big opera recording for the young Bulgarian mezzo, Veselina Kasarova. Composer and singer go marvellously well together.

Marilyn Horne long ruled the stage as the Syracusan warrior who fought off the Saracens a thousand years ago. With this set Kasarova announces that she too can wear the Rossinian trousers — or rather armour — that Horne occupied so sturdily. Kasarova never allows her voice to b... n, but injects a masculine ring to it, especially in the lower register, and carries enormous flexibility throughout her considerable range. She can handle the big numbers, of which Tancredi gets more than his fair share, and she is mellifluous in her duets with Amenaide, daughter of Sicilian high society.

In this role Eva Mei shows that she too can handle Rossini sweetly. Ramon Vargas sounds impossibly young as her father, but he also carries the style and the top notes for the piece. Robert Abbado conducts the Munich Radio Orchestra with true Italianate feel, whether sighing with the young lovers or marching off to war against the evil foe.

The 21-year-old Rossini turned the happy ending of the Venice premiere into a tragic one when the opera was restaged in Ferrara. RCA's excellent set contains both, although this means running to a third CD. Those looking for a shorter and cheaper version can turn to Axos, also very recommendable.

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OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** on ENO's triumphant production of an 'unstageable' masterpiece

Defiant display of martial art

Zimmermann's opera of 1965 is said to be the most important German opera since Berg's *Lulu*, and if importance is to be judged by sheer size, then it most certainly is — or was, until Henze capped it with *We Come to the River*. Several British productions have been planned, and then shelved because of the forces involved — an orchestra of more than 100, three film screens, electronics, enormous cast, dancers, actors and split stage-areas, quite apart from months of expensive rehearsal.

English National Opera has finally done it, a heroic act of defiance at a time when belts are being tightened all round and most companies are planning long runs of *Tosca*. And they have made a huge success of it: Tuesday's first night was the sort of company triumph reminiscent of its *War and Peace* and *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, demonstrating clearly what ENO is all about and why we need it.

Die Soldaten
Coliseum

There are many surprises, not least the piece itself. Lenz's autobiographical play of 1776, on which Zimmermann's libretto is closely based, is not so much about the brutal and licentious soldiery of the title as about class; the soldiers who degrade and destroy Marie, the middle-class protagonist, are all officers. The influence on Schiller's "bourgeois tragedy" *Kabale und Liebe* of 30 years later (even later to become Verdi's *Luisa Miller*) and Büchner's *Woyzeck* of 1837 is palpable.

Zimmermann repays the compliment: his score is an extended homage to Berg's *Wozzeck* — short scenes based on closed musical forms (chaconne, toccata and so on).

The only problem about this piece of overwhelmingly powerful music-theatre is that Marie is none too warmly characterised: there is a danger of her seeming an upwardly-mobile airhead on the make, using her sexual attraction to better her status, and of the opera itself turning into *Madama Butterfly* but with an unsympathetic heroine.

There is little opportunity to worry about this during a performance: you are swept along by the visceral power of the music. Again, surprises. *Soldaten* is reputed to be the noisiest opera ever written, and the prelude — shrieking woodwind and grinding brass over insistent drum beats — is certainly a musical vision of hell. But most of the writing is of chamber-musical, filigree delicacy and extremely seductive, with especially telling use of saxophone, electric guitar, bells and extravagantly divided strings; the Bergian vocal lines, angular and with wide leaps exploiting the extremes of the compass, have a beauty all their own.

If the production has a single hero, it is the conductor Elgar Howarth. He and the orchestra lay the music out with the utmost clarity, relishing its colours and subtle timbres, and take constant care with balance so that a cast taking equal care with diction get most of the words across.

And the cast sings superbly. The role of Marie looks quite impossible on paper but, in a stunning British operatic debut, Lisa Saffer not only makes light of the technical difficulties but ensures that every single bar emerges as *music*. Jon Garrison, in the Pinkerton role of Desportes, is equally musical, lyrical and unstrained. There are impressive performances from Roberto Salvatori *in the Lenz role of Marie's faithful* swain, Christopher Gillett as an officer who thinks, and Marie Angel as the Countess who tries to take the girl under her wing — the nearest we get to a sympathetic character.

DONALD COOPER

Uniformly superb: from left, around table, Nicholas Folwell (Major Mary), Roberto Salvatori (Stolzius), David Barrell (Major Haudy)

Soldaten was deemed *"unperformable" by its commissioners* in 1960, and even as revised four years later remains a formidable challenge. The director, David Freeman, has rightly gone for simplicity in Sally Jacobs's helpful permanent set, and could perhaps have gone *further: the films and soldier-extras* marching about — not very well — add little of substance. But the action is presented with unsparing clarity (a couple of nasty rapes), even the famous three scenes played simultaneously, in the event no *more adventurous than similar* devices in *Bohème* and *Rigoletto*. Indeed, in many ways *Soldaten* is a surprisingly conventional opera — nothing wrong with that — and rivetingly well performed. Definitely not to be missed.

Printed on the air

BOOKS are a staple resource of radio. *Late Book*, *Book at Bedtime* and the *Woman's Hour* serial are the more prominent audio outlets for the written word. And for an author to get one of these slots, while not quite amounting to a telephone call from Hollywood, *is a considerable leg-up.*

There are essentially four ways in which radio can utilise a book. Serialisation in one of the slots mentioned above, or in the 8.40am Monday slot on Radio 4, is the first. Next comes the book as a basis for discussion: the most prestigious outlet in this category is *Start the Week*, although to be mauled by Melvyn Bragg is not necessarily the fastest way to the bestsellers.

The third manifestation is the book as news item. The best example of late has involved the Duchess of York, who turned up in the famed "ten past eight" slot on *Today* (Radio 4), to be interviewed by Sue MacGregor. This time of the morning is normally reserved for politician-mauling and the interview typically lasts well under ten minutes. This one took nearly 20.

RADIO

Lest we were in any doubt as to whose agenda was being served, the duchess halted any interesting line of inquiry by *announcing: "That's not in the* book". This was a classic case of a respectable current affairs medium being hijacked for publicity purposes.

But the fourth and most entertaining example of book-to-radio transference this week came in *Death Discs* (Radio 2, Tuesday), a programme both nauseating and riveting. The programme was *based on a book, also called Death Discs*, which carries the sublime subtitle *Ashes to Smashes: An Account of Fatality in the Popular Song*.

The author, Alan Clayson, has a chirpy style that is as right for the book as it was for the radio, which focused heavily on the golden era of death discs between the mid-1950s and the mid-1960s.

But Clayson also played the first death disc, Stanley Kirkby's *Don't Go Down The Mine, Dad* (1910), a far more pithy piece of work than the cloying records which marked the genre during the rock era, from which the most noted example is the truly awful *Tell Laura I Love Her*.

Death Discs will not have been to every taste, but it served to illustrate that books can make splendid radio when the book is used imaginatively as a research source.

PETER BARNARD

THEATRE: Jesus raises the Lyceum from the dead but the spirit is ailing; plus posthumous vindication for a neglected playwright

DONALD COOPER

Moaning Messiah: Joanna Ampil and Steve Balsamo

Lame resurrection

YES, it is great to see the Lyceum back in creative business after an absence of several generations. Why, then, did last night's performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* not send me out shaken, moved, stunned, exhilarated, or something comparably strong? Where the Jewish rabble chants "hey-sanna, ho-sanna", I would, I fear, substitute a carping "ho-hum-sanna".

Maybe a perverse nostalgia is to blame. Behind the hefty portico that still looms over Wellington Street, Henry Irving played the great Shakespearean roles. Yet the Lyceum that has been expensively reborn on the same site is a garish barn, and the reopening show is not exactly *Hamlet* or *Lear*.

Let me admit that *Superstar* is not my favourite musical. I would recommend Andrew Lloyd Webber's lush, dark *Sunset Boulevard* or jokey, unpretentious *By Jeeves* to anybody; but the pop-opera he and Tim Rice concocted in the late 1960s exudes more showbiz noise than plain truth. The composer and librettist might be answering the Beatles' claim to be more famous than Christ by creating a Christ who was a greater celeb even than the Beatles.

Steve Balsamo's long, tapering Jesus is typically said to be "bigger than John when he did his baptism thing"; but John when he did his Lennon thing was a master of wisdom and warmth beside him. He seems to dislike the sick ("heal yourselves") and to resent disciples he thinks do not love him enough. The Last Supper opens nastily and soon turns nastier. "I must be mad thinking I'll be remembered," whinges the Superstar. "Look at your blank faces. My name will mean nothing after I'm dead." Though Balsamo sings nicely and brings what sensitivity he can to the role, it remains hard to care for this self-pitying egomaniac. Still, who expects a West End musical to be theologically sound? Thanks to Lloyd Webber's ebullient music and Gale Edwards's energetic direction, the evening at least holds the attention.

John Napier's set is terrific, tiers of brick arches that rise towards a stony Calvary and stretch out towards rough timber walkways running into the auditorium. Throngs swirl in rowdy joy or rage. The halt and lame slide from the brickwork like huddled, grey maggots. The temple genuinely looks like a den of thieves.

Visually, this is *Superstar* with a sprinkling of *Les Mis*. Edwards's production is earthier and less slick than the one that first hit London, and *the actors seem punchier than* their predecessors. Zubin Varla's puritanical Judas would be planting bombs on planes these days. A stricken David Burt almost makes you feel sorry for Pilate; Nick Holder's gaudy Herod puts plenty of venom into taunts such as "prove to me you're no fool, walk across my swimming pool"; Joanna Ampil as the groupie Magdalene sings the lovely *Everything's Alright* with plenty of sweetness.

Much is right, yet much is wrong. When the crowds launched into the title song, why could I not forget my children's parody: "Georgie Best, superstar, walks like a woman and wears a bra"? There is something about the Lyceum's reopening I cannot take seriously.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in some editions of* The Times *yesterday*

European disunity

ALMOST as exciting as discovering an excellent new play is the rediscovery of an excellent old one. Here is Odōn von Horváth's first play, completed in 1926, pushed into a drawer and not produced, even in his home country (Austria) until 1969, 30 years after his untimely death. In Paris to escape the Nazis, he sheltered under a tree during a thunderstorm and was killed by a falling branch.

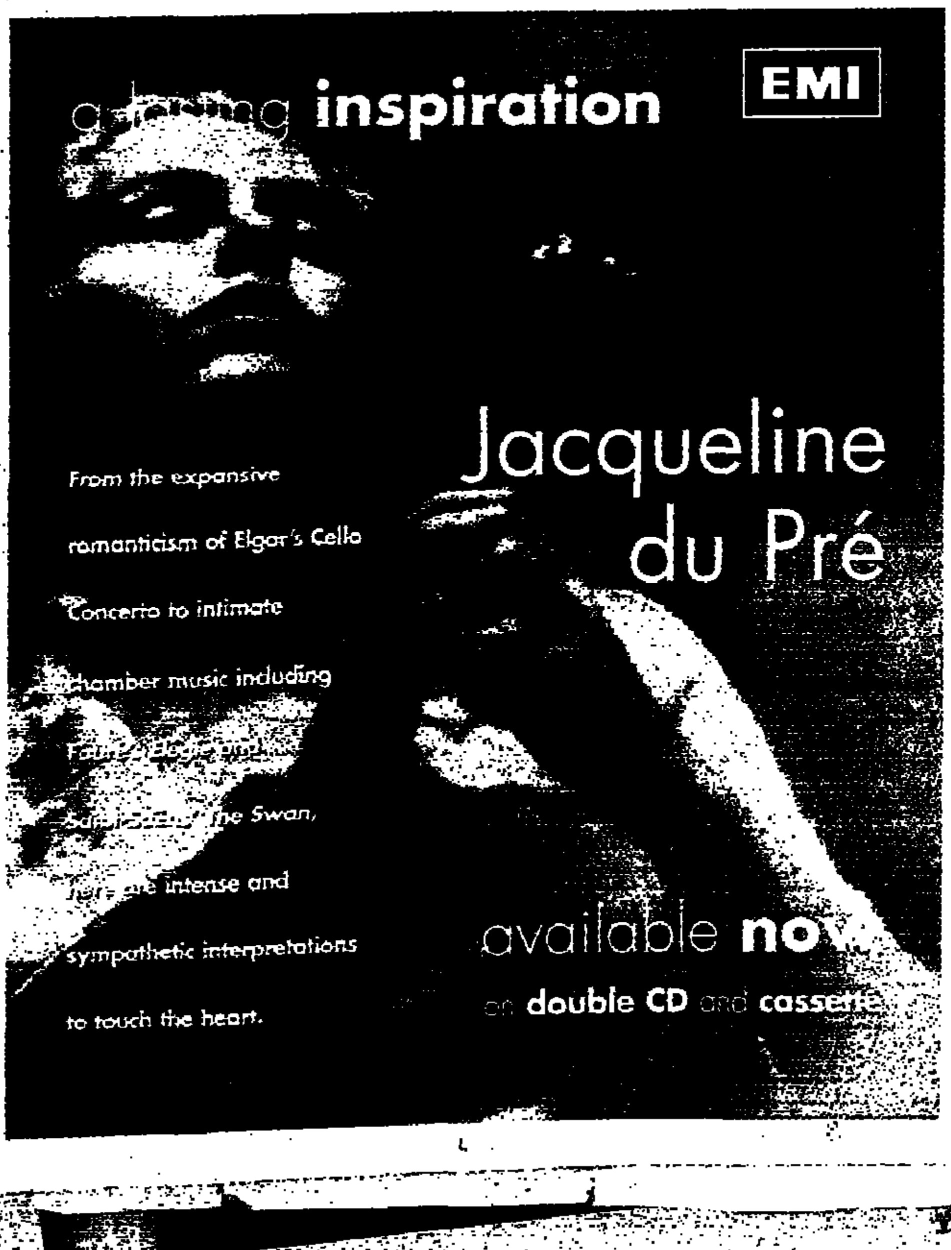
The Bellevue
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

In his hotel room were found the notes for a new novel, *Adieu Europe*, a title that neatly expresses the feelings that energise all his work. In *The Bellevue*, an outdated map of Europe hangs on the wall of the bankrupt hotel, and Nick Philippou's production for Actors Touring Company emphasises the point by hanging it permanently askew.

The wit is not only wintry but blisteringly funny, exposing the unremitting greed of its characters by giving them preposterously selfish, self-exculpating dialogue. Ada, a crumbling aristocrat, is the hotel's only paying guest, and when the sweet-natured Christine arrives, hoping to marry the manager who has fathered her child, the staff gang up on the girl and in a nightmarish sequence all pretend to have enjoyed her favours. She then reveals that her wish is to save the hotel with money from an unexpected inheritance, whereupon the men reverse their behaviour and struggle to propose marriage.

Kenneth McLeish provides a marvellously speakable translation, and Philippou has done the author proud with the zest of his production. As the raddled, grimly powdered countess, Ann Firbank is a haunting image of a woman, perhaps the image of a whole continent, long in the tooth but longing for former joys. Several characters, including John Dicks's sinisterly funny gambler, hint at the Nazi future ahead, and there is an exceptionally clever performance by Christopher Staines as a louche, monkey-faced waiter. Recommended.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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Roy Strong recalls the vision of a choreographer whose effervescent spirit infused his work

A dance to the music of his soul

I first met Sir Frederick Ashton at the close of the 1960s at a party given by the young Dufferins. As he sat with his head *en profile*, tilted as though he were an Edwardian dowager, I suggested to David Hockney that he ought to draw him for the National Portrait Gallery, of which I was then Director. He did, but the then Trustees didn't regard him as important enough so I arranged for its purchase by Ann Fleming.

In a way this is a cameo of establishment attitudes to the ballet even at that late date. The idea that Ashton would end up a knight, an OM and be accorded a memorial service in Westminster Abbey was still a long way off. And yet within his domain he was a genius. Egotistical, lazy, selfish, capricious, stingy, bitchy and wickedly witty, Ashton adored the grand life. He was a major prop of the *beau monde*, revelling in the friendship of duchesses and his adored Queen Mother, fully living up to Diana Cooper's adage: "Homosexuals make the best courtiers." For there always lurked behind the façade that hidden life, one driven on by a relentless sexual drive (which also included a brief heterosexual phase) which went on almost to the end.

This was Ashton the pursuer, haunted by a succession of beautiful young men whom he chose and got, or yearned for so ardently that he would put pen to paper in almost hauntingly poignant love letters. On the whole he was lucky, for only the venal and violent Marty Thomas cast a shadow at the end. The rest — the "widows" as they were called — remained loyal even after all passion was spent.

SECRET MUSES
The Life of
Frederick Ashton
By Julie Kavanagh
Faber, £25
ISBN 0 571 14352 0

What Julie Kavanagh reveals in her superb book is that in a sense each ballet was biography. For Natalia Petrovna and the tutor in *A Month in the Country* read the ageing Ashton pining for the beautiful Thomas. That side is unashamedly laid bare in this meticulously researched and documented account, but his creations rose above that not only because of their choreographic invention but because they were emanations of an intellect.

Ashton's greatest work came after 1939, the war precipitating a catharsis during which he educated himself. Beneath all the mannered affectation and campery there lurked a man who was well read in everything from the Spanish mystics to Proust and who was fascinated by the geometry of Euclid. That certainly sets him apart from his successors, but it also explains that ability to articulate the human condition through dance which pervades all his greatest creations from *Symphonic Variations* onwards.

In Ashton too there was that paradox of a period shared by Beaton, Britten and others which swung between Modernism and an insular romanticism, between succumbing to the exhilaration of the new tempered by elegies for a lost aristocratic culture.

This book will not only be a compulsive read for balletomanes, but also for its portrait of the world from which our present Royal Ballet sprang, one of between-the-wars high Bohemia. It is in fact the company's inner history and ought to be compulsory reading for all of them. Unlike Balanchine, Ashton never taught class or was accorded a foundation to perpetuate his work. Recent revivals of his ballets have revealed how quickly his subtleties can slip over into caricature and how some pieces already appear antiquated. Perhaps while the Opera House is closed someone will give thought as to which of his works should be preserved and also how. Ashton may not be the English Petipa but he is certainly our Bourneville.

BILL COOPER/ROYAL BALLET

Kumakawa as Puck in Ashton's *The Dream*, in a 1994 production

Delightful concoctions

BRIDGEMAN

More than the literary equivalent of spoonsful of jam — preparing a feast in the days before the sterility of the supermarket: *The Butcher's Shop* by Frans Snyders (1579-1657)

Food has become so fashionable, in certain milieux, that it is something you're seen with rather than eat. Anorexia chic demands that fashion victims who, last year, were still serving up grilled peppers and *polenta, now toy with ostrich* steaks and roast their veg.

Foreign food still represents, contradictorily perhaps, glamour, sex, authenticity and exoticism to anyone brought up on the kind of bad English cooking we are supposed to believe has vanished thanks to the relentless proselytising of the galloping gourmets.

Perhaps, in an age of sexual anxiety, food fantasies are safe. Cookery books have long been known to provide the blissful frisson that porn does not always deliver. But aren't *there enough anthologies on* food around already?

Where Paul Levy, in *The Penguin Book of Food and Drink* (Penguin, £20; ISBN 0 67085 266 X) remarks austerely that there is "no excuse for producing yet another book that is the literary equivalent of spoonsful of jam". Joan Smith in *Hungry for You: From Cannibalism to Seduction* (Chatto & Windus, £17.99; ISBN 0 7011 6217 1) is permissive, unashamed to pick out her favourite plums.

Her compilation is original in two ways. She prefaces each *section of extracts with a lively* essay of her own, and she tickles not just palates but also consciences by serving up lashings of nasties: starvation, torture and cannibalism.

Here is a sociological and cultural account, beginning with hunger pangs and ending with the pleasures of satiety. Smith is the head-chef who designs the menu but lets the sous-chefs shine. She does allow herself some enjoyable boasting about her learned "impetuous openness towards unfamiliar dishes such as *sweetbreads in Burgundy*, virulently hot chicken jalfrezi in Dhaka, raw reindeer tongues stuffed with sour cream in Stockholm, brain fritters in Damascus." Her conversion experience involved Italian cookery books: "I learned how to roast garlic and sun-dry my own tomatoes; I ate polenta on the shores of Lake Garda, black pasta in Sardinia and ribollita in Certaldo."

Joan Smith sounds, here, just like Loretta, the heroine of her detective novels, who, unlike other feminist sleuths who pride themselves on being *unable to distinguish* their farcies from their arborio, always knows what side her ciabatta is buttered on. Smith is caustic, in her Obsession section, on diet as symptom not solution: what a relief to encounter Muriel Spark, Duke Ellington, Carol Shields, Brillat-Savarin, and many other experts on gourmandise. That old favourite, Becky Sharp mistakingly gobbling chillis, is here. Nothing by Colette, which is a pity.

Where Smith really *scores is in her early* chapters, rubbing our noses in poverty, pain, desperate hunger and the desperate remedy of eating other people. Some of these accounts fill the reader with nausea and disgust. Others compel compassion.

Paul Levy, in the opening sentence of his introduction to the Penguin anthology, boldly lays his trump recipe cards on the kitchen table, declaring that "although this volume can be seen as an attempt to establish the canon of a subject that has yet to achieve recogni*tion, it is also a completely* personal choice of writing about food and drink."

Levy serves up big chunks of prose, long enough to convince and satisfy as well as titillate. He distinguishes between how-to advice and recipes, and reading about food and drink as a leisure activity enjoyed by people who like to eat and fantasise about eating but don't necessarily cook.

He includes a lot of pieces from authors practising in the New World, from S.J. Perelman to M. F. K. Fisher, and in *his second section, on the Old* World, quotes genorously from beloved experts like Edouard de Pomiane, Norman Douglas, Jane Grigson and Elizabeth David. These two books compliment each other like fish and chips.

MICHÈLE ROBERTS

Not so bad as you might think

Mary Ann Sieghart

THE AGE OF ANXIETY
Edited by Sarah Dunant and Roy Porter
Virago, £16.99
ISBN 1 86049 213 4

"The world was full of omens of its own destruction. New plagues swept across the globe: people died in agony, some shrivelled to skeletons, some pouring blood and fluids from every orifice. Children began to wheeze and choke on the very air they breathed. A heart of a pig was found to beat in the body of a man. There were floods where there had been droughts and drought where there had been water. And in a city in the west a woman who had lain as if dead for many months was found to be with child."

So begins the first chapter of *The Age of Anxiety*, a determined effort to make the turn of this millennium sound as flesh-creeping as that of the last. But try instead this alternative view of the Western world today: "Peace descended upon a continent that had been racked by war for centuries. Nations that were enemies became friends and terrible weapons of destruction were themselves destroyed. Women no longer died in childbirth; their babies and children were spared too. Many were blessed with fertility who would before have led barren lives. More people enjoyed the fruits of learning and their grandparents lived to a hitherto undreamed-of age. Like the very birds of the air, humans flew to distant continents and brought back tales of magical beauty."

All right, I admit it: I wrote that version. But it seems just as valid an assessment of Western life today. But it would not suit a publisher who had hit upon the idea that, as the year 2000 ap*proaches, we are all again in* the grip of millenarian angst.

Mary Midgley, in her essay on the environment, is the only writer to admit that, "I don't think there has ever been, in my time, any shortage of worry." For her generation, the biggest terror — that of war — has been lifted. But if anxiety is always with us, is it really any worse now?

Fear of crime has surely increased. But the acts that most shock us, such as the Bulger killing or the West murders, are horrifying pre*cisely because they* are so unusual. Linda Grant, in an excellent essay on violence, writes, "The even more ghastly truth about these two cases is not that they are symptoms of social breakdown but that they occurred where both community and family was still intact." The same was true of the Dunblane massacre, which took place in the close-knit community that is supposed to be a panacea to our social ills.

Crime is worse, but only compared with the golden age of the 1950s and 1960s, a uniquely peaceful period in a thousand years of almost permanent anxiety about violence. And Aids too, as Oscar Moore reminds us in a poignant posthumous essay, is no more than a return to the relatively recent days, just two generations ago, when sex meant danger. Even in the 1950s and 1960s, people had other things to worry about: nuclear annihilation, stifling social conventions and stultifying lives.

Most of our genuinely new anxieties are summed up in Geoff Mulgan's essay on technology and jobs. Those of us aged between 30 and 60 were educated without computers and brought up to believe that our careers would be linear and secure. It is not surprising that we feel ill-equipped for change. But we can learn the new ways, and our children will have been born to them, so they will be fine.

If you, like me, are a natural optimist, read this book and you will enjoy taking issue with almost every claim, or finding a countervailing reason to be happy to match each counsel of despair. You might even find yourself whistling, as I did, *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life . . .*

James Bulger, killed in 1993

SATURDAY BOOKS IN THE DIRECTORY
Sarah Bradford plunges into the debate surrounding the Duchess of York

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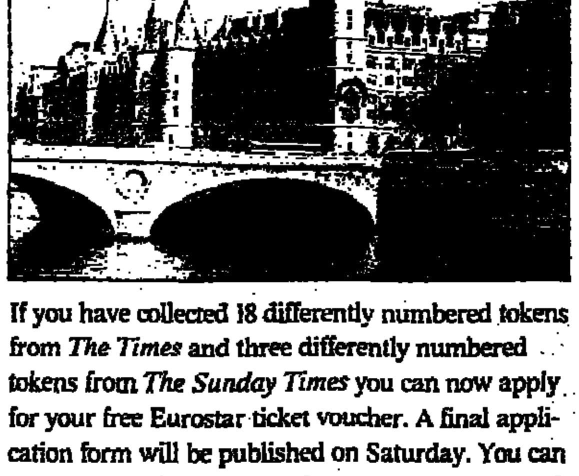

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SEE PAGE 2 FOR TODAY'S EUROSTAR TOKEN

CHANGING TIMES

Little Grey men

Philip Howard

GEORGE'S LAIR
By John Bayley
Duckworth, £15.99
ISBN 0 7156 2747 3

GEORGE is having an affair in clandestine lairs with a married woman old enough to be his mother. They make *al fresco* love in some Metroland suburb like Amersham, whose commuters suppose it to be proper country. Then George discovers a hoard of Kalashnikovs, Semtex and something even nastier in their indoor love-lair. And the *third volume of John Bayley's* trilogy of domestic thrillers is off down its roller-coaster of secrets, lies and surprises.

This is a mixed genre, after Dornford Yates, that Professor Bayley has invented. The thriller element is played by *the IRA, KGB and the* British spooks, who have been privatised by the end of the Cold War. They now operate (as they probably always did) for the continued employment and profit of their operatives. A key secret is discovered by the underling in the Moscow KGB whose duty is to trawl through *The Times* every morning. The domestic comedy is contributed by the ill-starred lovers. Making a mess *of things*, particularly his life, is what George is good at. And faith unfaithful keeps Martha, his improbable mother-lover, falsely true. The crusty element is supplied by the author through his puppets. He has witty digs at the vulgarity of television chat and game shows, misquotation of poetry, and modern catchphrases such as "ongoing" and "paradigm". "Crusty" itself could have been one of them. To anybody under 30 this now means smelling of old socks. And what a bore sex has become nowadays to the authorial voice. Always on view. Like sticking a BMW in a garage and leaving the door open.

Nevertheless, there is a fair amount of sex of all persuasions, described with wit that is not prurient and an old *man's interest in the* knickerless. The Grey brothers (there are three of them), conspirators and fantasists, get some of their just desserts. The gentle and the innocent get not quite a happy ending, but resolution and a step forward in the game of life. There is an explosion and the ghastliest Christmas family house party that has been held anywhere, even Bourne End.

The light story is witty, well written and exciting, with frequent chicanes and shocks. The good guys and girls end up living the sort of lives everyone thinks they ought to be living all along. It is funny, surprising, touching — and a little sad.

Sticky web of spells

Rachel Cusk

THE ENCHANTMENT OF LILY DAHL
By Siri Hustvedt
Sceptre, £12
ISBN 0 340 68235 3

IT IS owing to misfortune rather than misjudgment that the denouement of Siri Hustvedt's second novel fails to translate across the Pond, depending, as it does, on the words "Dahl" and "doll" sounding the same. If this *climax* sounds fragile, then the story enveloping it is equally so.

The Enchantment of Lily Dahl is one of those American novels whose view of the world appears to have been manufactured by diluting *with the author's* sensibility the boiled-down residue of American culture. Set in some vague era in a typically claustrophobic small town, the novel is spoilt for the choice of form according to which it will proceed: will it be *the soap opera*, with its limited but unerring stock of locations, or the sultry violence of *the film noir*? The suffocating narrowmindedness of Main Street, or the dark underbelly of the local rag? Or will it be all of these, worn with the slight self-consciousness which signals that some broad-brush criticism of the above is underway?

The novel opens with Lily Dahl, a young, beautiful and clever girl, working as a waitress at the diner downstairs, spying from her apartment on a dark, handsome stranger, who has taken up residence in a hotel room across the street. Lily seduces the stranger, a 34-year-old New York Jew who, having registered his interest, is left to his moody smoking and painting while Lily goes off to endure her rite of passage. Naturally enough, this involves men of the more local variety, who spin a workable web of intrigue upon the cusp of Lily's womanhood out of lavish quantities of small town *hokum* and hocus pocus. The local Dram. Soc. manages to mobilise a Shakespearian sub-plot, ample hauntings and sightings occur, the New York painter is besmirched with some low gossip which shakes Lily's mission at its very foundations and makes her realise that she is doing it for herself and herself alone.

Ms Hustvedt would undoubtedly argue that her novel has important things to say about female identity, but a male-female apartheid *characterisation* and references of Lily's period do not a feminist tract make. The novel does at least have a veneer of novelty to recommend it, but no more than that.

They never left Heaven

Peter Ackroyd celebrates the visionary thread that connects the worlds of Blake and Burroughs

The oldest literature in the world is the literature of vision; yet it is, in our time, the one least studied. The newest literature in the world is the literature of vision; yet, caught between the academic shibboleths of social realism and Modernism (or Post-Modernism), it is still the least understood. There has in fact been a change in the hot-house atmosphere of our *fin-de-siècle*, when omens and auguries have become commonplace, but true visionary writers are still likely to be neglected when not actively ridiculed. That is why a book of this kind is so necessary, especially since it espouses what Edward J. Ahearn describes as "a very persistent tradition of apocalyptic writing, only partially recognised by scholars and critics".

Professor Ahearn dates this visionary tradition from the time of the French Revolution, but the provenance may be questioned. The authors of *Piers the Plowman* and *The Pilgrim's Progress* precede that event, for example, and apocalyptic writings were as prevalent in the mid-16th as in the mid-18th century. This book's central concern is also with French literature but, as the names of Langland and of Bunyan may suggest, the same congregation of forces is to be found within English writing.

VISIONARY FICTIONS
Apocalyptic Writing from Blake to the Modern Age
By Edward J. Ahearn
Yale, £20
ISBN 0 300 06536 1

It is not of course a popular subject among modern English novelists, primarily because they have nothing much to say about it, while the broadly secular or Protestant conscience of academic "lit crit" has characteristically been unable to account for a *persistent tradition which, as* Ahearn shrewdly notes, can turn into "burlesque" or "satire", "displacement" or "magnification".

There may be something particularly unsettling, at least for literary purists, in the experimentation of novelists like André Breton or William Burroughs who have no particular attachment to the form or "seriousness" of the novel itself. But the novel is a recent invention, established in the context of a public and communal world which many visionaries consider to be an ill-favoured delusion. It might be then construed as issuing from what Blake called the mundane shell. That is why the species of writing is always less important than the vision which sustains it.

But the writers described in this book are by no means vague idealists or nebulous visionaries; they were, on the whole, eminently practical men who simply believed that the structure of the world was being misunderstood. Swedenborg was an engineer and Novalis a student of geology, while the ill-fated Lautreamont travelled to Paris in order to enrol at the College of Mining. There has always been a tradition connecting earth science with mysticism, culminating in a phrase that Professor Ahearn uses in the context of Novalis — "miners are astrologers in reverse".

Visionary Fictions is essentially a collection of short critical essays with an underlying theme but, as a result, it provides an excellent introduction to one of the most perplexing of all literary subjects. The essay on Novalis is instructive in that respect, since it places him within the context of late-18th-century German idealism. In that Newtonian age of commerce and burgeoning industrialisation, Novalis had a vision of the world that encompassed medieval fairy-tale, spiritual geology and a form of magical pre-history.

His was an attempt at syncretic or total knowledge, that holy grail pursued by 18th-century enthusiasts; but, for the visionary writers of the period, it was also an attempt to discover sources of power other than those technological and material ones which they witnessed all around them. That is also why many of them emphasised the destructive features of sexual repression; the risen, or renovated, human body might otherwise become the source of divine energy.

Of course the general reaction to the writers who have propagated or employed such beliefs is to denounce them as eccentric or mad; any writer possessed of a certain kind of energy or exuberance, in pursuit of an imaginative vision, is likely to be considered partly or wholly insane. Blake suffered for his visions, but remained intact; in some sense he is the presiding genius of this book. Gerard de Nerval, a French Chatterton, hanged himself. Lautreamont died mysteriously at the age of 24. It is as if they wished only to leave the world which refused to countenance them.

It was Lautreamont who, in the extraordinary *Chants de Maldoror*, created an image of God entering a brothel. "Lie for me," God asks the narrator. "Tell them that I never left heaven." This might be considered blasphemous, but really it is not so. Blasphemy is a cold and dark sin, emanating from those who have no sense of the sacred. *Chants de Maldoror* is, in contrast, filled with a desperate appetite for belief and a no less fervent desire for redemption. In that sense it can be judged the most formidable of visionary texts, surpassing even Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*.

Ahearn is very good and interesting on the predictive possibilities of such texts. One of the most extraordinary aspects of *William Burrough's The Naked Lunch*, for example, is the extent to which in 1959 he prophesied the growth of Arab terrorism in "Islam Inc", the spread of Aids and what sounds uncannily like the Internet in "the panorama of the City of Interzone ... Composite City where all human potentials are spread out in a vast silent market". A visionary who stares into the heart of the world also sees those forces waiting to emerge within it.

There are many matters for reflection and consideration in this book. Ahearn notes, for example, that there is in male visionary writers an aversion to female sexuality, which suggests that in some sense visionaries are *against nature*. But in no sense are they against history. In his concluding chapter Ahearn remarks that the visionary obsession with the historical process, or with layers of time and myth, may be a way of recognising the present as an aspect of eternity.

Visionary Fictions is a timely and relevant book, and marks a welcome addition to *the number of millennial and* apocalyptic texts which seem to be setting the tone of this final decade. It is as if, on looking back, we are beginning to see things clearly for the first time.

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

Vision that issues forth from the mundane shell: William Blake's apocalyptic *Death on a Pale Horse*, circa 1800

From beyond the grave

Marianne Wiggins

ON GRIEF AND REASON
Essays
By Joseph Brodsky
Hamish Hamilton, £30
ISBN 0 241 13567 2

SO FORTH
Poems
By Joseph Brodsky
Hamish Hamilton, £16
ISBN 0 241 00269 9

For two weeks after my father died, I watched the post like a vulture. Reason argued against a letter arriving from him, but grief fuelled the hope that he'd posted a final missive to me before he had died and that *something could arrive from* the far side of silence. What I was hoping, of course, was that the voice I loved all my life hadn't been stilled. The basic fulfilment of such an unpromising hope is, I believe, what unconsciously thrills us when a book by an author whose work we have cherished is published posthumously.

Now Hamish Hamilton publishes two books by the Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky, who died in January this year. The first and slimmer of the two, *So Forth*, is a volume of poetry either written in English or translated by Brodsky himself from his first language, Russian. The second, *On Grief and Reason*, is a collection of 21 essays, illuminations, exhortations, catechisms — varying forms of speedball *spiels in the* inimitable Brodsky style which made him such an electrifying presence in both his public and private spheres. Among the many rewards of these books is the bolt of emotional lightning, reading their opening lines, *not of seeing a ghost, but* of seeing an old friend anew.

"... [A] poet," Brodsky writes in an essay on Thomas Hardy's poetry, "shouldn't be viewed through any prism other than his poems" — which is a valid point of view only when the poet commits his words to poetry and nothing else. Brodsky thought himself a poet, first: even, perhaps, a poet only — but he was savvy and sensitive enough to realise his own poetry was inextricably braided with the sounds and rhythms of his native Russian. For many English speakers, the experience of hearing Brodsky recite his poetry in Russian was never really equalled by hearing or reading that same poetry in English. This was not so much the fault of Brodsky as it was the salt-to-pepper contrast between two different tongues.

In a poet of lesser genius, this might have signalled an artistic handicap, but Brodsky's pursuit of his love for language was too agile and athletic. As a result, he made himself into one of the English language's great essayists. It is through the prism of these essays that the distinctive brilliance of his mind can best be seen.

And what a mind: comic, playful, rigorous, exacting — above all, humble. *Not to mention sexy.* He was as scornful of cowardice in the political area as he was of mediocrity on the literary scene. There is perhaps no better example of Brodsky in a fit of moral outrage than his stunning *Letter To A President*, written *to that hero-of-*our-time, Vaclav Havel.

The title essay is Brodsky's masterclass on Robert Frost. He is at his best when writing about other poets, and there are essays here on Rilke, Spender and Hardy. None is more affectionate than his *Letter to Horace*. He looks forward to meeting Horace after death, but laments they have no common language. "Worse comes to worse," he proposes, "we can communicate through meters ... That might work; you know, like inmates in an institution."

If for no other gift to the reader, *On Grief and Reason* is a book to be thankful for because it teaches that when you are kept awake at night by the sound of your own heart thumping, you can survive the night knowing that it is the sound of those noisy poets, still working, somewhere.

Hold fast to sound words

Michael Dummett on the battle between prescriptive and descriptive grammarians

The title page reads: *The New Fowler's Modern English Usage*, first edited by H. W. Fowler, Third Edition edited by R. W. Burchfield. Here is a mistake: Fowler did not *edit* the book of 1926: he *wrote* it. What is an "edition" of a previously published book?

When it is the original author who carries out the revision, it is seldom problematic to speak of the new text as an edition of the old, unless the author has totally altered his opinions. But when the revision is by another hand, it is unclear. Countless compilations have appeared under the title *Hoyle's Rules of Card Games* which have nothing in common with Edmond Hoyle's original work; "Hoyle" has simply become a name for a book of rules of card games. Something similar threatens to happen to the name "Fowler". Fowler's book has been an enduring success, in part because of the very personal flavour he gave it. Of course, such a book does need updating from time to time, and Sir Ernest Gowers revised it for the second edition of 1965 with great delicacy.

Dr Burchfield has produced an equivalent for the 1990s: but I am doubtful of its right to call itself an edition of Fowler's book. Fowler is often cited, but little of the original flavour survives. Compare, for example, Fowler's article *Adjectives Misused* with Burchfield's article *Adjective*. Burchfield's contains a great deal of useful information which Fowler did not give; but not a word of Fowler's wise stylistic advice remains.

THE NEW FOWLER'S MODERN ENGLISH USAGE
Edited by R. W. Burchfield
OUP, £16.99
ISBN 0 19 869126 2

On the inside flap, the publishers ill-advisedly quote Churchill's recommendation to consult Fowler on the difference between "intense" and "intensive". Fowler draws the distinction with great clarity; Burchfield will leave most readers confused about it.

The article illustrates Burchfield's tendency to introduce his explanations with a history of the words involved; he insinuates that their original use has as much authority as the use to which they have come to be put. This is one cause of the blurred effect of several of his entries.

Burchfield has had to face another problem. The original Fowler was a paradigm of prescriptivism. In an atmosphere in which a grammarian *is judged virtuous by the degree to* which he vows allegiance to the descriptive principle, it is hard to be chosen to re-edit Fowler. Burchfield has articles on "descriptive grammar" and on "prescriptivism", and contrives to convey that a writer's preference between them is a matter of temperament; it depends, rather, on whether he regards all linguistic changes as benign or some as harmful and therefore to be resisted.

Burchfield oscillates between one attitude and the other. On occasions he is so prescriptive as to term deviant speakers "miscreants"; more often, he eschews partiality by expressing no opinion at all.

There is, of course, much of value in this book. Yet it may not be possible for anyone to compile a successful equivalent to Fowler's famous book, given the prevalent views of those who consider themselves experts on language (among whom, Burchfield explains to us in his preface, Fowler had no right to count himself); for they do not believe that anyone ought to do what Fowler did so well.

Michael Dummett is Wykeham Professor Emeritus of Logic in the University of Oxford; his book, A Wicked Pack of Cards, *co-authored with R. Decker and T. Depaulis, will be published next month by Duckworth.*

Questions raised and a rumour laid to rest

Duncan Fallowell

TCHAIKOVSKY'S LAST DAYS
A Documentary Study
By Alexander Poznansky
Clarendon Press, £20
ISBN 0 19 816696 X

The rumour went like this: Tchaikovsky did not die from cholera as officially stated, but committed suicide. He did this by taking poison after an ultimatum from a "court of honour" convened by his old school fellows to avert the threat of a major homosexual scandal. This supposedly involved an outraged uncle, Count Stenbock, protecting a Stenbock nephew at risk from Tchaikovsky's admiration. The uncle had threatened to petition the Tsar — some versions have the Tsar himself insisting that the composer end his life.

It was never more than the prattle of a few fantastists but in recent years the rumour has been put forward as fact by one minor Russian and two major British biographers — *the* British particularly seem at home with this combination of sexual guilt and prefectorial public school nastiness.

The rumour always sounded "wrong" and totally unRussian. Provided that a certain discretion is observed, Russians are *traditionally* very generous in matters of the heart and even the slightest acquaintance with its literature will show that 19th-century Russia was sexually free compared with England. At the very worst, Tchaikovsky might have been *asked to go* abroad for a little while. And an enforced suicide would have involved a cover-up that would have been impossible to sustain at the time and an infinitely greater scandal than eyes cast at the wrong person.

Now Alexander Poznansky, a Russian historian currently at Yale, whose own biography *of Tchaikovsky is by far the* best we have, puts an end to the nonsense once and for all with this triumph of exemplary scholarship and judgment.

It consists of an introduction, documents throwing an intense light on the last weeks of the composer's life, plus footnotes, commentary and epilogue. The progress of the *cholera is harrowing to read* but vivid and incontrovertible. In addition the author demonstrates how homosexuality was an established feature of Russian life, how there was not a single prosecution for it among the educated class in the 19th century, how Tchaikovsky was loved for his sweet and modest character as well *as for his music, how he was* cherished by the Imperial Family and given a state funeral, how two of his school fellows lived more or less openly as homosexuals, how he became — after the disaster of his marriage — rather well-adjusted to what he described as his "natural tendencies", how though sometimes melancholic he was full of plans for the future at the time of his death in 1893, and so on.

The rumour arose partly because of this suddenness but also, Poznansky writes, as a Russian "response to the trial of Oscar Wilde in 1895. The parallels are too obvious for mere accident: the famous writer is replaced by a no less famous composer, Lord Alfred Douglas by the young aristocrat Stenbock-Fermor, and the Marquess of Queensberry by an enraged uncle."

It is at this point that all biographers of the story have failed to notice something of the greatest interest: at precisely this period a young Count Stanislaus Stenbock was living in London as a flamboyant homosexual and poet, a member of the Wilde-Beardsley-Yeats circle. He divided his time between Kensington and his estates in Estonia. The St Petersburg Stenbocks would have been well aware of their Anglicised scion (he went to Balliol) and of his character.

He drank excessively and took to opium and died by inadvertently falling into a *fireplace in 1895 at the age of* 35. Clearly he would feed very significantly into the so-called persecution of Tchaikovsky by the Stenbock family but in what exact way remains to be investigated — perhaps by the illustrious Professor Poznansky at a later date.

MARY EVANS

The young Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky (left) with his parents and siblings in 1848

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■ A TREASURE hunt forms part of a three-night, self-drive break in Normandy with Inntravel Shortbreaks. The £158-a-head price includes a Portsmouth to Cherbourg ferry crossing on November 28, returning from Le Havre, and half-board accommodation at three separate hotels. Details: 01653 628862.

■ INDIA for a 16-day tour taking in palaces, mosques, temples and a deserted city is on offer from Explore Worldwide. The price is £1,095, including return flights departing on November 30, bed and breakfast accommodation and all internal travel. Details: 01252 319448.

■ KERALA, southern India, for £299 for a fortnight with flights from Gatwick on December 1 and 8 and bed and breakfast accommodation is on offer from Holiday Place. Details: 0171-435 8071.

■ KENYA for a fortnight for £405 a person with half-board accommodation on a Thomson holiday is available from Lunn Poly, departing from Gatwick on December 1. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

■ FUERTEVENTURA for £159 for a week's self-catering or £199 for a fortnight with a flight from Gatwick on December 4 is on offer from Inspirations. Details: 01293 822244.

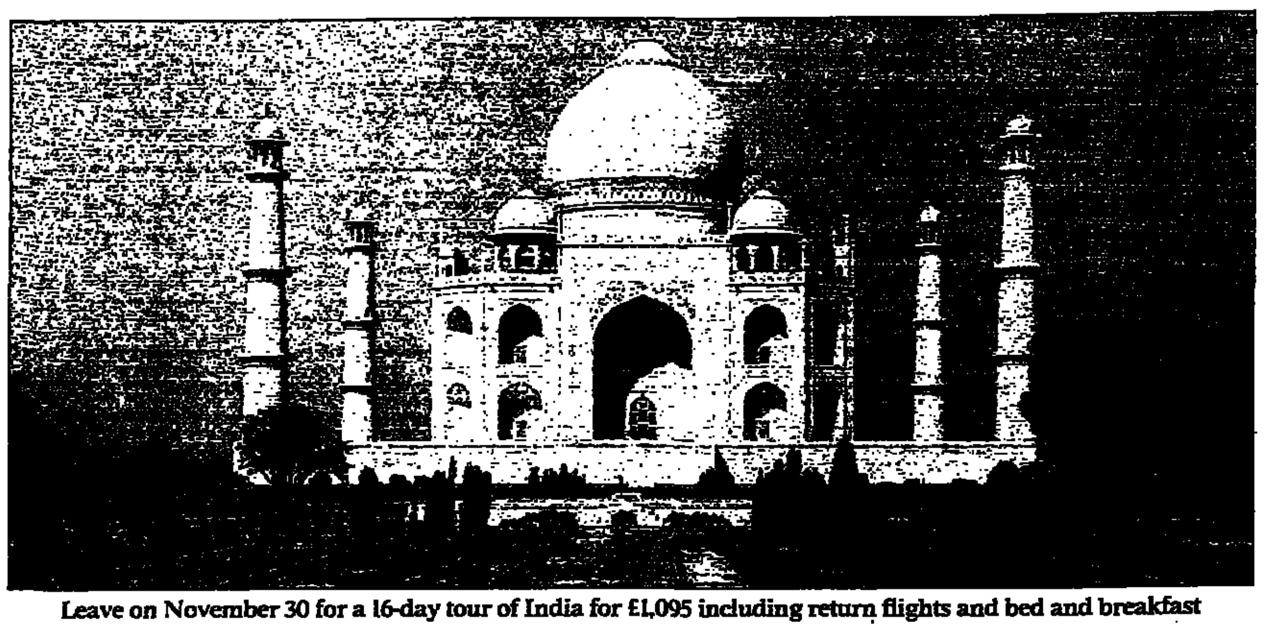
■ MADEIRA for a week for £199 a person. Flights leave Manchester on December 4 and bed and breakfast accommodation is available from Co-op Travelcare. Details: 0161-827 1030.

■ CELEBRATE Christmas early with a "turkey and tinsel" break in the Peak District from December 4 or the Somerset hills from December 11 with Countrywide Holidays. The price for two nights' in a country guest house, a guided walk and Christmas dinner is £76 a person. Details: 0161-446 2226.

■ LAST-MINUTE offers to visit Santa in Lapland are available from Norvista with three-night packages from December 7 and 13 costing £630 for adults, £445 for children. Details: 0171-409 7334.

■ A NEW YEAR'S EVE ball in St Petersburg is an optional but costly extra from Steppes East as part of a four-night package from December 29 to January 2. The cost of flights, bed and breakfast accommodation and sightseeing is £880 each. Details: 01285 810267.

■ A BOHEMIAN tour lasting of nine days, including nights in Budapest, Prague and Vienna, is featured in Insight Holidays' 1997 brochure. The £830-a-person price includes return BA flights, excursions and some meals. Details: 0990 143433.



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■ SABENA is promoting Brussels as a cut-price gateway to the Continent. The airline's latest Bravo fares are available from most UK airports via Brussels to 38 continental points. Examples from London include Berlin £109, Milan £119, Munich £99, Rome £139 and Vienna £149. Details: 0181-780 1444.

■ NON-STOP business-class flights to New York from Gatwick or Manchester priced at £1,481 (only a little more than the full economy fare) are available from the Travelbug. Details: 0161-740 8998.

■ LUFTHANSA will provide two business-class tickets to Germany for the price of one and a half when you book through American Express Travel. *Details: 0171-929 0334.*

■ DELAY your trip to Australia until after the new year rush and a return ticket with Japan Airlines to Sydney, Brisbane or Cairns, will cost £599 through FETC. Details 0171-414 8808.

■ AIR Namibia has a special £199 one-way fare between Heathrow and Windhoek, Cape Town or Johannesburg, valid for selected dates in November and December. Details: 0181-944 6181.

FERRIES

P&O European Ferries has an offer of £16 for a car and driver day-trip on Dover-Calais (£10 supplement on Saturdays. Additional foot passengers cost £1 each. Valid until December 31. Details: 0990 980980.

■ SEA France is cheaper on *Dover-Calais day-trips. Cars* cost £5 and £1 is charged for each passenger (£10 car supplement on Saturdays). Foot passengers travelling out and back on the same sailing can travel for 50p. Valid until December 31. Details: 0990 711711.

■ STENA Line has £15 car returns, £1–a-car passenger, on routes from Harwich, Newhaven, Dover and until November 30, Southampton-Cherbourg; £10 supplements apply on Saturday sailings from Dover and Newhaven, on Friday from Southampton and Harwich. Details: 0990 455455.

■ FOR longer ferry trips, Scandinavian Seaways has three days/two nights at sea mini cruises from Harwich to *Esbjerg (Denmark) leaving on* November 26; Hamburg (28) and Gothenburg (29). Prices from £59 include breakfast and a sightseeing trip. Details: 0990 333111.

■ A TEN per cent discount offer on all Brittany Ferries routes has been extended for bookings made before November 30. The offer applies to car and four passengers on the company's six routes to northwestern France and Spain. Details: Eurodrive, 0181-3244000.

[illegible]

SAVINGS of up to 35 per cent are available at 20 hotels in the Concorde Hotel Group as part of its winter rates offer. Rooms start at £79 a night and include seven Paris hotels, the St James Court in London and the Metropol in Brussels. Details: *0800 181 591.*

■ CITADINES, the French apartment hotel group, has opened its first Apparthotel in the UK in South Kensington, offering 92 apartments at rates starting at £80 for a two-person studio a night, reducing to £72 a night for seven nights and £64 a night for more than 21 nights. Details: 0171-543 7878.

■ THE Lowndes Hotel in Knightsbridge, has a winter rate from December 15 until February 28 of £140 plus VAT for single or double occupancy. Details: 0171-8231234.

■ TAKE a weekend break at the Pennington Midland Hotel in Bradford, from £39.50 a person a night, including dinner, from November 23 until February 2 and see the Linda McCartney photographic ex*hibition at the city's National* Museum of Photography. Details: 01274 735 735.

■ THE Montcalm Hotel at Marble Arch in London has a Christmas rate from £225 a person for two nights with its seasonal menu under the control of its new head chef, Jonathan Nicholson, formerly at Congham Hall in Norfolk. Details: 0171-402 4288.

■ THE 80-room Carlton Ambassador Hotel located in the heart of The Hague has a weekend package rate of £140 until the end of the year of two nights, including breakfast, for two people. Details: 0181-908 3348.

■ TAKE a shopping trip to the Lakeside shopping centre in Essex and stay at the nearby Stifford Moat House, a Georgian country house set in six acres. Weekend breaks before Christmas cost £32 a person a night. Details: 01708 719 988.

■ NUTFIELD Priory Hotel at Redhill, Surrey, has a special post-Christmas rate, from January 1 to February 28, of £50 a person a night based on double occupancy. This includes breakfast, dinner and use of the hotel's health and fitness facilities. Details: 01737 822 066.

■ THE newly renovated Hotel Astoria in Brussels has a "weekend concert invitation" package, including dinner (with cocktails and wine) and a classical music concert at the hotel on a Sunday morning followed by lunch. Price is Bfr5,300 (about £100) a person a night based on double occupancy, available until March 31. Details: 0181-741 9699.

■ THE NEW Crown Club floor at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, renovated at a cost of £45,000 a room, offers unpacking by the Crown Club butler, along with complimentary pressing of two suits. A one-way transfer to Heathrow is included in the room rate of £280 a night single occupancy, £300 double. Details: 0171-499 6363.

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The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

The dust from the storm whipped up by the Office of Fair Trading's surprise decision to refer the travel industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is finally beginning to settle.

Through the murk it is becoming increasingly clear that during the next 12 months of soul-searching within the industry, the needs and demands of real people — the millions who want to pay as little as possible for a top quality holiday — are not on the agenda. Instead, the investigation will revolve around a largely arcane battle over procedures.

John Bridgeman, the director general of the Office of Fair Trading, took more than 16 months to complete his own investigation and by all accounts rather relished the last few months during which he tried privately to persuade the biggest tour operators to change their trading practices. In the end he failed to convince Martin Brackenbury, the Thomson negotiator, of the force of his argument and in frustration passed the matter on to "higher authority" to decide.

The Government is, of course, delighted that yet another decision can be deferred until after the general election. And the Opposition can blame the Government for the inertia without having to produce a detailed policy of its own.

The whole exercise was forced upon the Office of Fair Trading by the vociferous Association of Independent Tour Operators, whose 150 members have complained bitterly that they cannot compete fairly with the big tour operators on price. They argue that their brochures should be displayed in the big multiple travel agents such as Lunn Poly, Going Places, Thomas Cook and A T Mays alongside those of Thomson, Airtours, First Choice and Inspirations and that the public should be told clearly which tour operator owns which travel agency. They complain that the big boys are overcharging for insurance to cut their headline prices while small travel agents are being forced to the wall by the big chains offering selected discounts.

Independent travel agents also argue that while the big chains stock only between 150 and 200 brochures at any one time they stock up to 800, thereby giving the consumer a wider choice. But I do not believe that anyone who stocks 800 separate brochures knows much about more than a handful of them. Better, surely, to be an expert in a few than a dullard at a lot.

While the trade continues to tear itself apart with matters which may be of prime importance to itself, the mass of holidaymakers continue to buy largely on price — and that means package holidays from the big tour operators bought and booked through big travel agents.

There is, however, a growing demand for high quality, well planned, exclusive, independent holidays, which usually cost more than the packages offered by the giants. Holidaymakers who buy these need detailed personal service which, surely, small agents and tour operators can provide. The last thing we consumers need is government interference in choosing a holiday. And we certainly do not want an "Ofhol" bureaucracy. Would that our voice could be heard at the MMC.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

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Insider's Paris

As record numbers choose a holiday afloat, the old lady of Cunard saves money by going slow

Cruises vie for custom in boom market

By Tony Dawe

CRUISING, once the prerogative of the rich, is increasingly being offered as a bargain holiday, as shipping companies vie to attract a new clientele aboard their burgeoning fleets.

Travel agents are promoting cut-price deals, with Co-op Travelcare offering up to 30 per cent discounts on selected cruises next year — especially to the Caribbean — and Lunn Poly's 800 Holidays Shops also offering substantial savings.

The cruise companies are cutting prices for those who book early, with P&O Cruises offering savings of up to 20 per cent on bookings made before the end of this month, and Princess Cruises promising up to £300 off some brochure prices for those who book 60 days in advance.

The deals represent a concerted attempt to convince holidaymakers that cruising need no longer be expensive. "The cruise companies have suddenly realised there is a huge market and are trying to make holidaymakers aware that cruising is affordable," says John Pittalis, spokesman for the Passenger Shipping Association.

"With operators like Airtours and Thomson entering the market, prices have come down and it is quite possible to take a two-week cruise in the Caribbean or Mediterranean for a price comparable to an all-inclusive package holiday in the same region."

Pete Williams, of Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, says: "Anyone is a a potential cruise passenger today. One of the reasons why cruising has remained a minority interest for holidaymakers is that those responsible for selling it have wasted too much time preaching to the converted."

He says that greater efforts should be made to overcome the misconceptions about cruising and to convince tourists that it is no longer expensive, formal and claustrophobic.

The bargains on offer also reflect the growing capacity of the cruise industry. Last year, 132,000 berths were available worldwide but that is expected to increase by about 40 per cent to 185,000 by the end of the century.

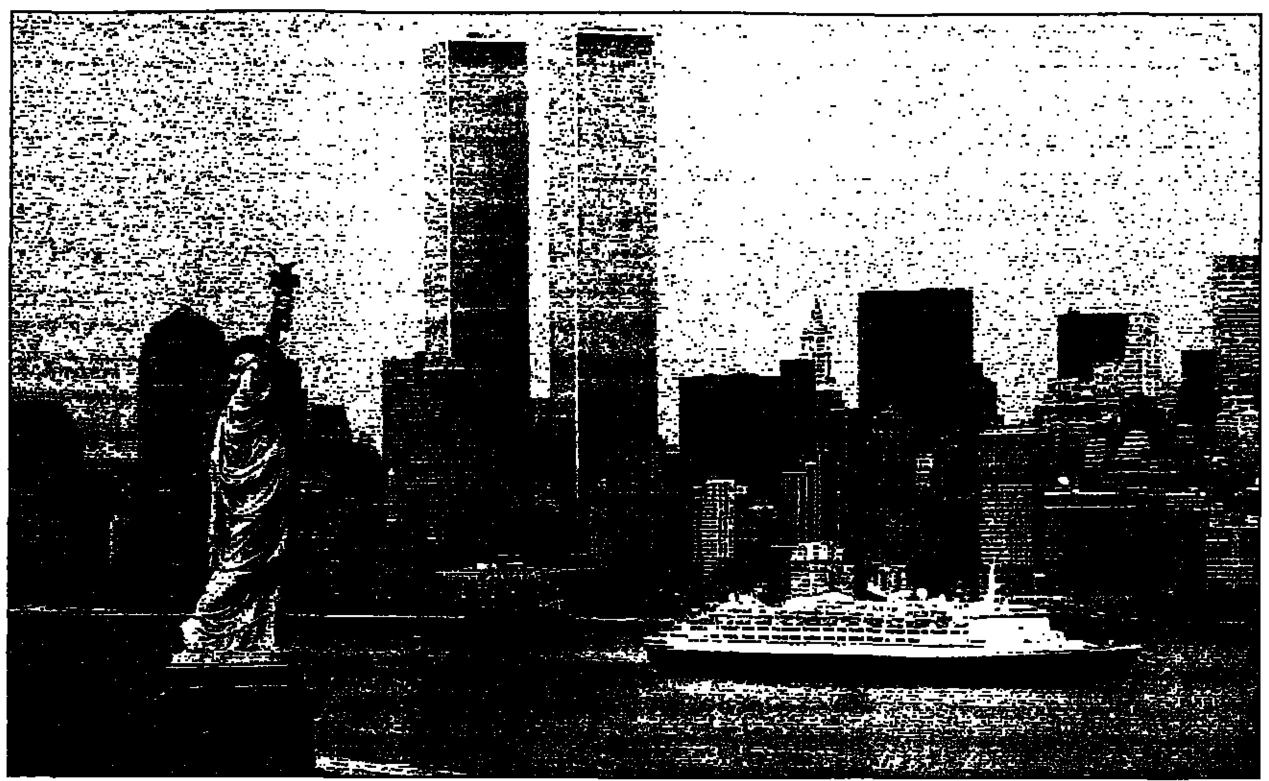
Carnival Cruise Lines has recently launched *Destiny*, the world's largest cruise ship, and Celebrity Cruises will shortly be launching its new star, *Galaxy*. Fred Olsen's *Blackwatch* has entered the UK market, while *Oriana*, P&O's flgaship, has gained increasing popularity among tourists.

The increase in capacity, which is expected to continue during the next five years, and growing consumer demand, has led the Passenger Shipping Association to predict that, by 2001, 600,000 United Kingdom passengers will be choosing to cruise, an increase of nearly 50 per cent on present figures.

Carnival is predicting an even faster surge. "Our target for 1997 is a 60 per cent further increase of UK business against this year's sales figures," says the company's Lynn Narraway.

"We have two different marketing strategies for 1997: tour operator business is aimed primarily at the Florida market, combining a cruise with a package holiday, while our Sunwaves brochure is targeted more towards the traditional cruise market."

Prices for a week's fly-cruise start at £799 a person, plus £110 tax, sailing from San Juan to St Thomas, St Maarten, Dominica, Barbados and Martinique. Among other bargain offers currently being promoted are a nine-day fly-cruise around the Western Caribbean next November for £975 and a fortnight's cruise off the coast of Africa next April for £749 — both available from Co-op Travelcare. P&O Cruises is offering a week-long "Greek Odyssey" trip on *Oriana* next September from £591 a person, while a ten-night Canaries Carousel next June aboard *Canberra* on its last cruising season will cost from £676.



Slowly does it — the Cunard flagship will save fuel and wear and tear on her journeys to and from New York

QE2 decides to take it easy

By Glyn Genin

THE transatlantic liner *Queen Elizabeth II* is to reduce its speed next year, taking six days on the crossing from Southampton to New York instead of five. The cut in the Cunard flagship's service speed from 28.5 to 23 knots is designed to save £660,000 in fuel in a year, as well as making further savings by imposing less wear and tear on the ship's diesel-electric power plant.

"As Concorde can get you across the Atlantic in under four hours, speed is not an issue," said Captain Keith Stanley, the *QE2*'s Master. He believes his passengers want more leisurely travel, and that the new schedule will assure more consistent embarkation and disembarkation times. "With a top speed of 33 knots, we will still have plenty of power in reserve if we find we're running late," he said.

The 70,000 ton liner, 30 years old next September, goes into the King George V dry-dock at Southampton today for a £12 million refit — the first time such work has been carried out in a British yard since the end of the Falklands War in 1982. *QE2* has sailed more than four million miles and carried more than two million passengers since her launch.

Cunard and the shipyard are determined to avoid the financial and public relations disaster which followed the last refit and have had a project team planning the work for the past 18 months. The ship is due to return to service on December 12.

Cunard's new owners, Kvaerner ASA, are to concentrate on the luxury end of the international cruise market. They sold the middle-ranking, 900 passenger, *Crown Dynasty* earlier this month.

"The *QE2* is unique, the last express liner in regular Atlantic service," said Cunard spokesman Bill Spears.

Cunard hopes to attract business travellers — people moving jobs between Europe and North America. These modern-day versions of the migrants who made the shipping companies fortunes at the turn of the century will have their cars garaged and pets kenneled aboard free of charge.

QE2 will make only 20 North Atlantic crossings in 1997, compared with 27 this year. Longer, warm-water cruises are planned, including a spring sailing from New York to Southampton via the Caribbean, Madeira and Tenerife.

Two hundred and sixty of the ship's least expensive berths are to be taken out of service, reducing passenger capacity to 1,500. *QE2*'s five restaurants will all become single-sitting.

Fuel rise will hit package tours

By Harvey Elliott

HOLIDAYMAKERS could face surcharges next summer because of a sudden big rise in the price of aviation fuel.

The surcharges are likely to be imposed on packages, which include flights on scheduled airlines that have not "hedged" their fuel costs, or where the tour operator does not have a "no surcharge" guarantee.

An emergency meeting of the world's leading scheduled airlines was told this week that the price of aviation fuel has gone up by 43 per cent in the past 12 months and by 37 per cent since June alone.

As fuel prices account for nearly 11 per cent of total operating costs, airlines have decided to apply for an across-the-board increase on published scheduled fares of 3 per cent from December 15.

None of the major international airlines has demanded extra money from tour operators to pay for the higher charges and most need to give at least ten weeks' notice of an intention to increase the price. But Chris Kirker, chairman of the Association of Independent Tour Operators, warned that they would fight any attempt to pass on the additional costs to his members.

"Three per cent across the board is not warranted," he said. "We will resist any move to impose such an increase on our members who have already published their brochures and who therefore cannot pass any increase on to their customers."

Most big charter airlines have "hedged" the cost of buying fuel and are unlikely to feel the effect of the increases until next winter.

Tour operators now buying seats on charter airlines are well into their winter season and the prices quoted in their brochures are, generally, guaranteed throughout the season. The big airlines bought their fuel for this winter in April and, for a small premium, guaranteed that they would not have to pay more whatever happened to the spot market price.

In July, when they made their long-term purchases for next summer, aviation fuel was selling at $180 a ton. By last week this had risen to $220 a ton and yesterday it was trading at $250 a ton. Experts predict that the price rise will slow down, and could fall back to about $220 a ton by the end of the winter.

But even so, at the end of the winter season, when airlines have to buy their fuel for next winter, they could face increases of at least 25 per cent.

The reason for the increase is the surge in demand for air travel together with the closure of a number of refineries.

US hotels 'forbidden' to sell Disney tickets

By David Churchill

BRITISH holidaymakers to Orlando are being prevented from buying Disney theme-park tickets in their hotels because of a row between Walt Disney World and its major rivals including Universal Studios, Sea World and Wet 'n' Wild.

Universal, 50 per cent owned by Britain's Rank Organisation, claims that Disney has prevented 19 hotels in the Orlando area from selling Disney admission tickets because these hotels also sell a new and very successful budget pass to non-Disney parks. This pass is part of an alliance between Universal and a number of Orlando hotels, which includes free transfer from the hotels as well as other benefits.

The Universal budget pass was brought in last May to combat Disney's market dominance and offers a five-day ticket for adults to the three main non-Disney Orlando Parks for about £66, almost half the £124 cost of a five-day pass to the Disney parks. Nearly a million British holidaymakers will visit Walt Disney World this year.

Universal's success with the admission tickets has rankled Disney and forced it to take a tough line with hotels in the Universal alliance, allegedly stopping them from selling Disney tickets. Already the move has hit British holidaymakers. Debbie Gilmour, on holiday from Glasgow and staying at the Gateway EconoLodge in Orlando, told US news media who are avidly reporting the battle between the theme park giants: "When I got to the hotel I wanted to buy Disney tickets and they told me they could not sell them. I did not believe it." She eventually found tickets at a shopping mall near by but she said that it was a "horrible inconvenience".

The Embassy Suites in Orlando is reported to be another hotel, which is on the alleged Disney "blacklist".

The threat of litigation is causing both sides to maintain a public silence on the dispute, although a Disney spokesman in London confirmed that Disney had recently launched its own marketing alliance with "about 50 non-Disney hotels in Orlando under our 'good neighbour' scheme".

Behind the ticketing dispute is Disney's concern over Universal's new £1.6 billion expansion plans over the next two years to triple the size of its existing theme park and build four new resort hotels. Universal is also joining plans by the local authority to build a £141 million light-rail system that will link the airport, the major tourist hotels and the theme parks — apart from Disney. Disney, in turn, is spending an estimated £2 billion on a new animal-based theme park, a sports complex and new hotels by the end of the century.

Tourist analysts, however, remain doubtful whether Orlando's visitor growth — projected at 5 per cent per annum — will be sufficient to meet this increased incapacity. International markets — of which the UK is the leader with 1.3 million visitors this year — remain vulnerable to fears over violence. Visitor numbers from Germany, for example, were halved after the shooting of a German tourist last year.

Foreign Office 'blacklists' 7 countries

TRAVELLERS are being warned to stay away from a record number of countries now appearing on the Foreign Office "blacklist", *Harvey Elliott writes.*

In advice distributed to the travel industry and given to independent travellers who inquire in person, the consular division of the FO advises against all travel to seven nations, plus five regions.

It also advises against travelling to another six countries and one other region "unless on essential business".

Nobody should travel to Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Iraq, Liberia, Somalia and Western Sahara. The FO also warns against going to Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea, the Chechen Republic of Russia, Irian Jaya in Indonesia, Jammu and Kashmir, India, and to Kivu in Zaire.

There is also a warning against travelling unless on essential business to Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Zaire and to eastern and southeastern Turkey.

Visitors to the Central American country are attracted by its lakes and volcanoes

Guatemala wants warning lifted

By Tony Dawe

THE Foreign Office has been asked to lift its formal warning to travellers to Guatemala, which attracts 600,000 visitors every year but only a few hundred from Britain.

Richard Callaway, the country's recently appointed director of tourism, has met senior consular officials in London to convince them that tourists can travel safely and to remind them that America has withdrawn its warnings.

"I have asked the Foreign Office to evaluate the measures we are taking and to reconsider its travel advice," Mr Callaway said. "Security in the main areas of Guatemala City has been tightened and we are making our highways safer with better signs and paving to prevent vehicles from having to slow down."

The Foreign Office warns travellers that "violent crime is prevalent throughout the country, muggers are often well armed and armed attacks on public buses are common". However, it does not advise people to avoid the country altogether.

The call for a change in attitude is supported by Trips Worldwide, the Bristol-based company, which specialises in Central American holidays. "We have organised tailor-made itineraries for hundreds of clients and no one has returned with any personal experiences of crime or violence," Jo Campbell, Trips director said.

Where the planes leave on time

HOLIDAYMAKERS flying from Birmingham and Luton early this summer were more likely to take off on time than those flying from other airports, according to the Department of Transport, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Sixty-five per cent of flights from Birmingham and 64 per cent from Luton left within 15 minutes of the scheduled time, according to figures compiled for the department by the Civil Aviation Authority. Only 46 per cent of those taking off from Gatwick were within 15 minutes of the published time.

While charter flights suffered, scheduled airlines were much more punctual. Eighty per cent of all the scheduled flights monitored were on time in the second quarter of this year — 2 per cent fewer than in the same period last year.

The on-time performance of scheduled services slipped at six of the seven airports covered in the survey and only Birmingham, with a punctuality rate of 88 per cent, was the same as in the second quarter of 1995.

Regional airports generally performed better with both scheduled and charter flights than those serving London. On average, 78 per cent of scheduled flights and 49 per cent of charters from London's four main airports were within 15 minutes of the published time, while at the regional airports of Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow the averages were 80 per cent and 52 per cent respectively.

When the figures for the peak summer period are produced they are expected to show a further decline in punctuality, despite a 10 per cent fall in the number of charter flights during the summer.

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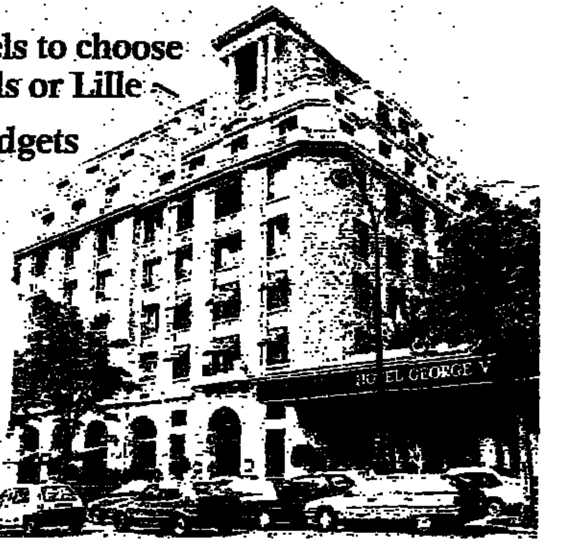

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CHANGING TIMES

Fee-paying adds value

John O'Leary explains the benefits of paying for an independent education

SIMON WALKER

Portland Place school is hoping word of mouth will increase its number of pupils

Independent schools, as usual, dominated yesterday's examination league tables. Although quirks in the system may undervalue the performance of many of the leading lights, the quality of the sector still shines through.

Winning a place in an elite school, such as Westminster or St Paul's, in London, is not easy. They are among the most selective in the country and many of the big city day schools have at least five applicants for every place.

Statistics suggest that if a child is no more than average academically, it is still worth parting with the fees for what were once known condescendingly as minor public schools.

Studies carried out for the Department for Education and Employment show that sixth-formers with modest GCSE results do better at independent schools.

Last year's DFEE analysis found that independent school pupils outscored those in the state system at every level. Of those achieving less than the equivalent of eight C grades at GCSE, almost half of privately-educated candidates scored at least ten points at A level, compared with less than a quarter of those in the state sector.

Nick Bevan, the headmaster of Shiplake College, at Henley-on-Thames, says: "Schools like ours take kids from a wide range of backgrounds, and our recent inspections said we were producing above-average results with average pupils. The top schools are taking people who are going to get four As anywhere, but for some of our boys a couple of Es is a real achievement."

The secret of Shiplake's success, according to Mr Bevan, lies in small classes and a dedicated staff. Most boys are restricted to eight GCSEs, allowing them an extra lesson a week in each subject.

Mr Bevan, who is the next chairman of the Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools, added: "League tables do have a damaging impact because parents automatically assume that schools above us are better, rather than just having a better clientele. Once we are able to show the improvement between 13 and 16, we will show up well."

That time is not far off, now that the main independent schools' associations have agreed to test pupils on entry and compile their own "value added" tables. Pilot projects will start in a number of schools next year and may be introduced nationally in 1998.

The Girls' Schools Association, which is one of the partners in the scheme, hopes that the 45-minute tests may become the model for all schools in England. The aim is to measure IQ, prior achievement and potential, allowing academics at Durham University to assess each year's GCSE results against pupils' natural ability. Until the new system is introduced, parents will have to rely mainly on recommendations to find the good schools that the league tables fail to identify. A growing number of independent schools are also making their inspection reports available to parents.

A handful of independent schools undergo inspections by the Office for Standards in Education each year, but there are two similar inspection systems operating in the private sector. The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference organises teams of senior staff to inspect its members' schools, while the Independent Schools Joint Council deals with other associations.

Schools are not obliged to publish inspection findings, but most will issue them. Although not as hard-hitting as Ofsted reports, they are an invaluable source of information to parents.

Head aims to build up new school

PORTLAND Place School in central London is one of those rare phenomena — a new independent secondary school, *David Charter writes.*

More than £1 million has been put into the ambitious venture to carve out a niche in one of the country's most demanding markets.

Obtaining and refurbishing two impressive listed Georgian houses in Portland Place to cater for up to 250 11 to 18-year-old boys and girls was the easy part. Now it is up to Richard Walker, the headmaster, and his 24 staff to convince parents to spend the £5,835 annual fees on a place.

"It will take some time because the main way parents hear about you is through word of mouth," says Mr Walker, former head of chemistry at St Paul's Girls School in London. "But if you have got one happy customer it generally means a couple more will be referred."

Portland Place was set up by the Davies Laing and Dick group which already runs ten prep, pre-prep and sixth form colleges. It started in temporary buildings before moving to its present site, and offers the national curriculum range to small class groups. For sports it uses nearby Regent's Park, the local authority pool and a private gym.

There are currently 110 pupils. This summer it had an excellent A level average of 22 points — for its two entrants.

Mr Walker adds: "I don't think people choose schools mainly on exam results, they choose it on the people they meet and faith in the head and staff. Frankly, when parents come here they are interviewing me."

Chance to catch up on league tables

READERS who missed yesterday's school league tables have two immediate opportunities to catch up with the results.

The 24-page results supplement published in *The Times* is available through the paper's internet edition, and booklets giving the full statistics for every local authority area can be ordered from the Department for Education and Employment.

The tables are already available in the back issues section of *Interactive Times*, which can be found at: http://www.the-times.co.uk. They will remain in the education section of *Information Times*.

Central libraries will stock tables for their area, but members of the public may order their own copies via Freephone 0800 242322 or by writing to: School and College Performance Tables, DFEE, Freepost (LON 6283), London E3 3BR. The information will also appear on the department's internet site.

Separate booklets for each area include information on vocational qualifications and the number of pupils receiving help for special educational needs, as well as statistics on GCSE, A levels and absence records.

TOMORROW

School or college? With more teenagers than ever wanting a change of scene after GCSE, we weigh up the options and look at the marketing war

Why children at prep schools get the best results

David Tytler on the benefits of small class sizes and specialist teaching in the private sector

As parents scour the Government's GCSE league tables to see how well their local schools have done, they may also be wondering how they can assess how well their own children will do in the examination.

The best predictor of GCSE grades, says David Hanson, director of education for the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS), are the results of the national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds — Key Stage 2 Sats, in the jargon.

He says: "The tests are a sound prediction of future performance. Prep schools have very good results at Key Stage 2 and they are gaining in importance for parents choosing a school."

At Key Stage 2 this year, 91 per cent of IAPS pupils gained national curriculum level 4 or above in English compared with the reported national average of 56 per cent; 89 per cent achieved the same levels in mathematics compared with the reported 53 per cent.

In science, IAPS schools scored 93 per cent compared with the state school average of 82 per cent. In English, 39 per cent of prep school pupils reached level 5 or above; 48 per cent in mathematics and 41 per cent in science.

The prep school results will not be published when the state school figures are published next March. But they will be available to prospective parents, particularly if the school has done well. While it is not compulsory, most prep schools follow the national curriculum, and enter their pupils for the end of key stage tests at 11.

Hugh Davies Jones, chairman of IAPS and Headmaster of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne, says: "These tests were externally marked and subject to the same rigorous audit as those in state schools. The results demonstrate that standards remain very high in prep schools, particularly in the 'three Rs'.

"Of course, preparatory schools should be outscoring their state counterparts, not only because of our small class sizes and specialist teaching, but because we have enjoyed freedom and independence over the past 25 years of turbulent educational history."

Mr Hanson says: "The most marked difference between state schools and prep schools at Key Stage 2 is probably specialist subject teaching. As children progress through prep school, they gradually change from whole-class to subject-based teaching. At the end of Key Stage 2, some pupils are working at GCSE level. It is unacceptable to expect a single class teacher to be able to teach all ten subjects of the national curriculum to this level.

"Sadly it would appear that in our country, status is attached to the age of the children we teach. This attitude is not only wrong, it is very damaging and inhibits graduate subject specialists from entering primary schools. So far this problem is less prevalent in prep schools and they continue to benefit from an increasingly young, dynamic and talented teaching force."

The other key factor, says Mr Hanson, is the number of children in a class: "The skills of the teacher may be paramount, but there is no doubt that a teacher can give more time and attention to a class of 15 or 20 than he or she can to a class of 30 or 40. Small classes are very popular with parents and another reason why they choose prep schools and why teachers enjoy working in them."

The good prep school will have features common to all good schools. It will treat its children as individuals who matter, provide security and firm but fair discipline, ensuring that they leave well prepared for senior school as mature young adults.

A visit to the school will reveal much: the way children behave, whether they are friendly, happy and confident and trusted to show visitors round the school. Visiting parents will learn more about what goes on in a school from a pupil in a matter of minutes than they will from the head in a day.

Among the questions to ask are: Does the school have a strong music or art department? Is there a strong sporting tradition? Which senior schools do the pupils move on to? How many scholarships do its pupils receive for senior schools?

If you are not made to feel welcome, think again. A warm welcome is the least you should expect from a school that will be charging around £9,000 a year for boarding and £6,000 for a day pupil.

Prep schools do have the advantage of being able to choose those parts of the national curriculum which they think are in the best interests of their children. Mr Hanson says: "Most IAPS schools do follow the revised national curriculum but consider it to be a minimum specification.

"The National Curriculum can never provide sufficient conditions for learning, nor does it describe the culture, values, or ethos of the school, yet these aspects are critical in providing a quality learning environment. They are one of the strengths of prep schools and greatly influence parental choice."

Prep school children do well in the Key Stage 2 tests

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EC working hours directive was validly made

United Kingdom v Council of the European Union

Case C-84/94

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, J. L. Murray, L. Sevón, C. N. Kakouris, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and H. Ragnemalm

Advocate General P. Léger

(Opinion March 12)

[Judgment November 12]

The Community directive which provided, inter alia, that the average weekly working time of workers was not to exceed 48 hours, had been correctly adopted on the basis of article 118a of the EC Treaty, rather than on that of article 100 or article 235, and was not inconsistent with the principle of subsidiarity.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, when dismissing for the most part an application by the United Kingdom under article 173 *of the EC Treaty for the annulment* of Council Directive 93/104/EC of November 23, 1993 concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working *time* (OJ 1993 L307 p18) and alternatively for the annulment of article 4, the first and second sentences of article 5, article 6(2) and article 7 of the directive.

The court allowed the application to the extent of annulling the second sentence of article 5.

Article 100 of the Treaty provides: "The Council shall, *acting* unanimously on a proposal from the Commission ... issue directives for the approximation of such laws, regulations or administrative provisions of the member states as directly affect the establishment or functioning of the common market."

Article 118a provides: "(1) Member states shall pay particular attention to encouraging improvements, especially in the working environment, as regards the health and safety of workers, and shall set as their objective the harmonisation of conditions in this area, while maintaining the improvements made. ...

"(2) In order to help achieve the objective laid down in the first paragraph, the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in article 189c [procedure for acting by a qualified majority] ... shall adopt by means of directives, *minimum* requirements for gradual implementation, having regard to the conditions and technical rules *obtaining* in each of the member states...

"(3) The provisions adopted pursuant to this article shall not prevent any member state from maintaining or introducing more stringent measures for the protection of working conditions compatible with this Treaty."

Article 235 provides: "If action by the Community should prove necessary to attain ... one of the objectives of the Community and *this Treaty has* not *provided* the necessary powers, the Council shall, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission ... take the appropriate measures".

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The directive, in accordance with article 1, laid *down minimum* health and safety requirements for the organisation of working time, and applied to all sectors of activity, both public and private, in the meaning of article 2 of Council Directive 89/391/EEC of June 12, 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in *the safety and* health of workers at work (OJ 1989 L183 p1), with certain exceptions.

Under section II of the directive, member states were obliged to take measures necessary to ensure that every worker was entitled to a minimum daily rest period of 11 consecutive hours per 24-hour *period (article 3), to a* rest break where the working day was longer than six hours, the details of such break to be determined by the two sides of industry or by national legislation (article 4), to a minimum uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours in each seven-day period, plus the 11 hours daily rest referred to in article 3 (article 5, first sentence), such period in principle to include Sunday (article 5, second sentence), and to four weeks' *annual paid leave*.

Article 6 required member states to take the measures necessary to ensure that the period of weekly working time was determined by the two sides of industry or by national legislation, provided that the average working time for each seven-day period, including overtime, did not exceed 48 hours.

Section III contained various requirements concerning night work, shift work and patterns of work, and section IV contained miscellaneous provisions.

In support of its application, the United Kingdom relied on four pleas, alleging: (1) that the legal basis of the directive was defective, (2) breach of the principle of proportionality, (3) misuse of powers, and (4) infringement of essential procedural requirements.

The first plea

The United Kingdom contended that the directive should have been adopted on the basis of article 100 or 235 of the Treaty, which required unanimity within the Council, rather than, as was the case, on the basis of article 118a.

The United Kingdom argued, first, that article 118a had to be regarded as an exception to article 100, which, pursuant to article 100a(2), was the article that covered provisions "relating to the rights and interests of employed persons", and must therefore be strictly interpreted.

As the Court had pointed out in *Opinion 2/91* [[1993] ECR I-1061 paragraph 17), article 118a conferred on the Community internal legislative competence in the area of social policy. The existence of other provisions did not have the effect of restricting the scope of article 118a.

Appearing as it did in the chapter of the Treaty dealing with social provisions, article 118a related only to measures concerning the protection of the health and safety of workers, and therefore constituted a more specific rule than articles 100 and 100a.

That argument therefore could not be accepted.

Second, referring to the wording of article 118a, the United Kingdom argued that that provision permitted the adoption only of directives which had a genuine and objective link to the health and safety of workers, and that that did not apply to measures concerning working time, leave and rest periods, whose connection with the *health and safety of workers was* too tenuous.

That interpretation, it was said, was borne out by the expression "working environment" used in article 118a, which implied that directives based on that provision must be concerned only with physical conditions and risks at the workplace.

However, there was nothing in the wording of article 118a to indicate that the concepts of "working environment", "safety" and "health" as used in that provision should, in the absence of other indications, be interpreted restrictively, and not as embracing all factors, physical or otherwise, capable of affecting the health and safety of the worker in his working environment, including in particular certain aspects of the organisation of working time.

On the contrary, the words "especially in the working environment" militated in favour of a broad interpretation of the powers which article 118a conferred on the Council for the protection of the health and safety of workers.

The United Kingdom further argued that, in view of the reference to "minimum requirements" in article 118a(2), that provision empowered the Council to adopt harmonisation measures only at a level acceptable to all member states and constituting a minimum benchmark.

In conferring on the Council power to lay down minimum requirements, article 118a did not *pre-judge the extent of the action* which that institution might consider necessary in order to carry out the task expressly assigned to it, namely, to work in favour of improved conditions, as regarded the health and safety of workers, while maintaining the improvements made.

The significance of "minimum requirements" was simply, as article 118a(3) confirmed, that member states were authorised to adopt *more stringent measures than* those forming the subject matter of Community action: see *Opinion 2/91* (paragraph 18).

The Court then held that there was no support in the wording of article 118a for the United Kingdom's third argument, to the effect that Community action should be restricted to specific measures applicable to given groups of workers in particular situations, while measures for wider purposes should be adopted on the basis of article 100.

Article 118a referred to "workers" generally and stated that the objective which it pursued was to be achieved by the harmonisation of "conditions" in general existing in the area of the health and safety of those workers.

In addition, the delimitation of the respective fields of application of articles 100 and 100a, on the one hand, and article 118a, on the other, rested not on a distinction between between the possibility of adopting general measures in the former case and particular ones in the latter, but on the principal aim of the measure envisaged.

It followed that where the principal aim of the measure in question was the protection of the health and safety of workers, article 118a must be used, although such a measure might have ancillary effects on the establishment and functioning of the internal market.

It was in the light of those, among other considerations that the Court had to examine whether the directive was properly adopted on the basis of article 118a.

Choice of legal basis

As part of the system of Community competence, the choice of the legal basis for a measure had to be based on objective factors which were amenable to judicial review, including, in particular, the aim and content of the measure.

As to the aim of the directive, the United Kingdom argued that it represented a continuation of earlier Community initiatives concerning the organisation of working time in the interests of job creation and reduced unemployment, and was in reality a measure concerned with the overall improvement of the living and working conditions of employees and their general protection, and so broad in its scope and coverage as to be capable of classification as a social policy measure, for the adoption of which other legal bases existed.

According to the sixth recital in its preamble, the directive constituted a practical contribution towards creating the social dimension of the internal market.

However, it did not follow from the fact that the directive fell within the scope of Community social policy that it could not properly be based on article 118a, so long as it contributed to encouraging *improvements as regarded the* health and safety of workers, and the Court had concluded, in *Opinion 2/91* at paragraph 17, that article 118a conferred on the Community internal legislative competence in the area of social policy.

Moreover, the organisation of working time was not necessarily conceived as an instrument of employment policy.

The approach taken by the directive, viewing the organisation of working time essentially in terms of the favourable impact it might have on the health and safety of workers, was apparent from several recitals in its preamble.

While it could not be excluded that the directive might affect employment, that was clearly not its essential objective.

As regarded the content of the directive, the United Kingdom argued, on various grounds, that the connection between the measures it laid down, on the one hand, and health and safety, on the other, was too tenuous for the directive to be based on article 118a.

In relation to one point made, a distinction must be drawn between the second sentence of article 5 of the directive and its other provisions.

The question whether to include Sunday in the weekly rest period was ultimately left to the assessment of *member states*, having regard, in particular, to the diversity of cultural, ethnic and religious *factors in the* states, second sentence of article 5 read in conjunction with the tenth recital.

The Council had failed to explain why Sunday, as a weekly rest day, was more closely connected with the health and safety of workers than any other day of the week, and in those circumstances the second sentence of article 5, which was severable from the other provisions of the directive, must be annulled.

The other measures *laid down* by the directive, which referred to minimum rest periods, length of work, night work, shift work and the pattern of work, related to the "working environment" and reflected concern for the protection of "the health and safety of workers", the scope of which terms had already been explained earlier in the judgment.

After considering the further points made by the United Kingdom, *the Court concluded that it* was clear that, in terms of its aim and content, the directive had as its principal objective the protection of the health and safety of workers by the imposition of minimum requirements for gradual implementation, and that, accordingly, neither article 100 nor article 100a could have constituted the appropriate legal basis for its adoption.

It should be noted that once the Council had found that it was necessary to improve the existing level of protection as regarded the health and safety of workers and to harmonise the conditions in that area while maintaining the improvements made, achievement of that objective through the imposition of minimum requirements necessarily presupposed Community-wide action, which otherwise, as in the present case, left the enactment of the detailed implementing provisions required largely to the member states.

As to article 235, it was apparent from the Court's case law that that article could be used as the legal basis for a measure only where no other Treaty provision conferred on the Community institutions the necessary power to adopt it.

It must therefore be held that the directive was properly adopted on the basis of article 118a, save for the second sentence of article 5, which must accordingly be annulled.

The second plea

The United Kingdom's argument of non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity was to be rejected.

It was said that the Community legislature had not established that the aims of the directive would be better served at Community than at national level, but that argument, as so formulated, really concerned the need for Community action, which had already been examined earlier in the judgment.

Futhermore, the United Kingdom based *its argument* on a conception of "minimum requirements" which differed from that in article 118a, that provision did not limit Community action to the lowest common denominator, or even to the lowest level of protection established by the various member states, but meant that member states were free to provide a level of protection more stringent than that resulting from Community law, high as it might be.

The Court had held that, in order to establish whether a provision of Community law complied with the principle of proportionality, it must be ascertained whether the means which it employed were suitable for the purpose of achieving the desired objective and whether they did not go beyond what was necessary to achieve it.

As to judicial review of those conditions, however, the Council must be allowed a wide discretion in an area which, as in the present case, involved the legislature in making social policy choices and required it to carry out complex assessments.

Judicial review of the exercise of that discretion must therefore be limited to examining whether it had been vitiated by manifest error or misuse of powers, or whether the institution concerned had manifestly exceeded the limits of its discretion.

So far as concerned the first condition, it followed from what had already been said in the judgment that the measures on the organisation of working time which formed the subject matter of the directive, save for that contained in the second sentence of article 5, contributed directly to the improvement of health and safety protection for workers in the meaning of article 118a, and could not, therefore, be regarded as unsuited to the purpose of achieving the objective pursued.

Also, for reasons given by the Court, the Council did not commit *any manifest error in taking the* view that the objective of harmonising national legislation on the health and safety of workers, while maintaining the improvements made, could not be achieved by measures less restrictive than those that were the subject matter of the directive.

The second plea must therefore also be rejected.

Third and fourth pleas

For *reasons* given by it, the Court held that the United Kingdom had failed to establish that the directive was adopted with the exclusive or main purpose of achieving an end other than the protection of the health and safety of workers, and that there was no substance in the submission that the directive was inadequately or defectively reasoned.

The third and fourth pleas were therefore also rejected.

On those grounds, the Court of Justice:

1 Annulled the second sentence of article 5 of Directive 93/104

2 Dismissed the remainder of the application

3 Ordered the United Kingdom to pay the costs, and

4 Ordered the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Spain and the Commission of the European Communities to bear their own costs.

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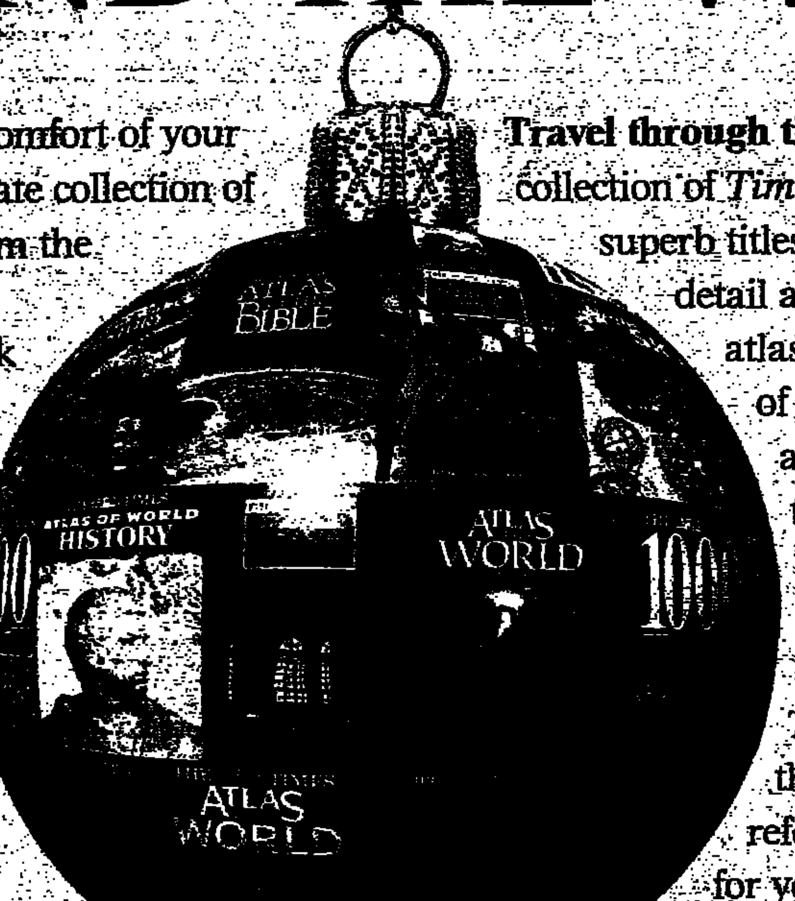

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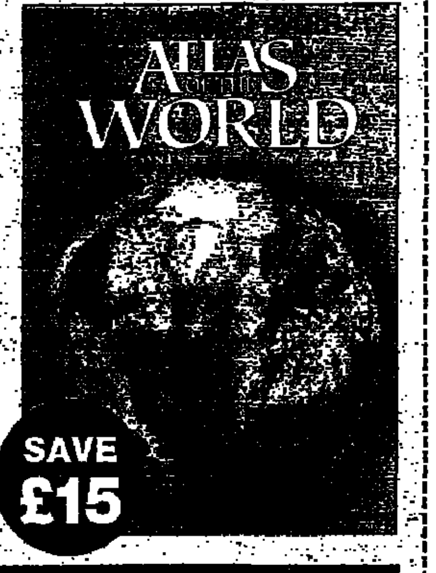

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TIMES BOOKS A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE

Advertising a sign of the good times for football

Do real football supporters drink claret? Odd as it seems, this might now be their tipple of choice if we are to believe the advertising seen around some of the country's grounds at the weekend.

The message was there for all to see as Derby County lined up in the rain against Middlesbrough at the Baseball Ground on Sunday. "Vin de Bordeaux" proclaimed the hoardings that skirted the pitch. Vin de Bordeaux? For a football crowd?

They may label this the FA Carling Premiership, but advertising men know their markets well and those hoardings were blatantly aimed at the claret-drinking classes with the expensive season tickets; and nothing more clearly spells out the changes that have taken place in the profile of the great British football crowd.

Forget the shuffling, winding rivers of working-class fans who traditionally plodded to the town or city stadium after spilling out of the factory gates at one o'clock on a winter Saturday. These days, the fans prefer to show up in cars and coaches, or simply to follow their favourite team on television, and many of the games do not even take place on a Saturday any more.

With the introduction of all-seat stadiums after the Taylor report, there were bound to be changes to the crowds. Grounds are smaller for a start: but crowds are no less keen. The game has never been more popular. Never has it had such a following, so to keep the revenue high despite the smaller ground capacities, the ticket prices got higher.

'The game has never been more popular'

Clubs charge what they can get away with — and at some clubs they can get away with quite a lot. At Chelsea, for instance, the best seats will cost you £40, and you will pay £2 for a programme and £1 for a cup of tea. But even at these prices, seats are hard to come by. Try getting into Newcastle United or Chelsea. You can't.

What has happened is that the dedicated followers of football have simply become more affluent and more educated. A recent national survey of fans published by the Sir Norman Chester Centre for football research at Leicester University shows how the supporter of the Nineties is becoming ever more sophisticated.

Some of the findings are surprising, but they are certainly enough to have the marketing men eyeing up the opportunity to sell a good few cases of claret.

Wimbledon, according to the survey, have more up-market supporters than most in the Premiership. Of the season-ticket holders who cheer on Vinnie Jones and his muddy men, 38.6 per cent have a degree, compared with their two closest intellectual rivals, Manchester United (36.8 per cent) and Leeds United (34.6). Even Coventry City, bottom of the higher education league, could boast that 24.9 per cent of their season-ticket holders are graduates.

BRYANT'S

EYE

The survey also found that there is a growing number of football spectators whose salaries exceed £30,000 a year. Chelsea fans, for instance, who were found to be generally low in education, are surprisingly high in salary. Another statistic that the marketing men will not have missed is that one in eight Premiership fans is now female, and the number is growing rapidly.

Today's football crowds are very different, both in size and in make-up, to those that saw the game grow into a mass spectator sport. When the Football League began business in 1888, the 12 founder members had to guarantee a regular crowd of 4,000 or more. But soon attendances were soaring. In 1893, when Wolverhampton Wanderers played Everton at Fallowfield, Manchester, in the FA Cup Final, the gate was 45,000. By 1901, with the final back in London, at Crystal Palace, 110,000 watched Tottenham Hotspur draw with Sheffield United.

These huge crowds were not made up of supporters eager to stock their cellars with vin de Bordeaux, but the sport they flocked to watch had originally emerged as a "gentleman's game" — developed by the elite of the great public schools and universities and codified by self-confident, middle-class Victorians.

The first laws of the game were framed at Cambridge University in the middle of the last century, with the representatives of such schools as Eton and Shrewsbury present. The public schools dominated the early years of football — with the Old Etonians even winning the FA Cup twice, in 1879 and 1882. Today the public schools will tell you that interest in football has never been higher. "About 20 of the 50 boys in my house watch Premiership matches," Angus Graham-Campbell, an Eton housemaster, reports.

The Boodle and Dunthorne Cup (the knockout football competition for independent schools) is booming as never before, with Eton, Shrewsbury, Westminster, Charterhouse, Lancing, Winchester, Brentwood and Ardingly all playing, together with the northern grammar schools.

'Clubs charge what they can get away with'

With the changing profile of the fans and the huge interest in football that now cuts across all social groups and incomes, it appears the appeal of the game has almost come full circle.

That privileged elite, who sat in Cambridge a century and a half ago to hammer out the laws of the game, might well reflect that, with its all-seat stadiums, its new, affluent middle-class supporters, and its ever-growing attraction for the advertising industry, football as they knew it is at last coming home.

And that is something which they might wish to toast — with a good drop of vin de Bordeaux.

JOHN BRYANT

GOLF

Sherry put on trial by the Spanish inquisition

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN SOTOGRANDE

THE professional golf circuit in Europe started nearly 11 months ago and is not finished yet. Here in southern Spain this morning, 182 professional golfers intent upon competing against the likes of Colin Montgomerie, Ian Woosnam and Costantino Rocca on the PGA European Tour in 1997 will begin an elimination process that could hardly be tougher if it had been devised by Tomas de Torquemada, Spain's infamous 15th century inquisitor.

With the Andalucian hills in the background and the Mediterranean in the foreground, the would-be Ryder Cup stars will play six rounds on the Old Course at Sotogrande and at San Roque. At least the better ones will. The lesser ones will be eliminated after 72 holes. Those that survive will play two more rounds under intense pressure and the leading 40 will have earned their cards.

Sherry: test of nerve

The card is their passport to compete on the European Tour in 1997, but is no guarantee of fame and fortune. Just ask Joe Higgins and Mike Miller. Higgins has been on and off the Tour for years without earning much money. He is making another attempt to get his card because winning the PGA regional order of merit this year enabled him to do so.

Miller, 45, has been around, seemingly, since irons with wooden shafts. The rookie of the year in 1979, he has never seriously troubled those who record the low scores at tournaments, but this year he had a good run in regional events in Scotland and finished 22nd on the Challenge Tour. He probably thought to himself: "Another visit to the school? Why not? You never know. There's life in the old dog yet."

Not only will a majority of the competitors fail to get their cards this year, but there are also long odds against those that succeed having a year like the one David Howell has just had. Howell turned professional before the school last year, got through the qualifying and settled down in the professional ranks so well that he finished 54th in the order of merit with winnings of £132,500.

If that sounds good, then consider the efforts of Raymond Russell and Padraig Harrington. Both won their cards at this event last year and throughout 1996 they seemed locked together in a personal duel to see who could win more money.

Harrington, a Walker Cup player in September 1995, edged out Russell by £17,000, in part thanks to winning the Spanish Open. The amount they each won goes some way towards explaining why so many young players hope they, too, are good enough to compete at the highest levels this continent can offer. Harrington took home £285,000 and Russell £268,000.

Paul Way, a Ryder Cup player in 1983 and 1985, had such a wretched season in 1996 that he has to qualify for next year, as does Mike McLean, who went to the same school in Kent at the same time as Way. Gordon J. Brand, 41, the 1983 Ryder Cup player, who won less than £7,000 this year, is trying again, as is Steve Webster, the leading amateur at the 1995 Open Championship. Being the winner of the school last year was no guarantee for him this year. He won only £40,000, so it is down to Spain for him, too.

One of the biggest names, as well as one of the biggest men, will be Gordon Sherry. The amateur for whom nothing went wrong in 1995 turned professional in April 1996, after which nothing went right.

This time last year Sherry looked almost as good a prospect in Europe as Tiger Woods was in the United States. As Woods turns the world of American sport on its head, Sherry has been out on the practice range in Scotland, working hard with Bob Torrance, his coach. The next week will be an interesting one in the career of Gordon Sherry. It will show us what he is made of.

"I'm sure I'll feel nerves, but I have just got to control them," he said. "It's the calmest and coolest who get through. The last thing Bob [Torrance] told me before I came here was: 'These are the happiest days of your life, go and enjoy them'."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Mike Betts, of Jaguar, plays out of a bunker during final practice yesterday as his team-mate, Bryan Calam, looks on

Corporate elite ply competitive skills at golf's taxing haven

Mel Webb looks at the changing face of La Manga's lush fairways and the national final that is too close to call

The *bonhomie* and the mutual congratulation flowed like best Rioja. But that was on Tuesday: today the gloves come off. The national final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge gets under way this morning and, for the next two days, the air will be thick with the whiff of battle in this sun-blessed southeast corner of Spain.

The competition was stiff enough in the 12-event regional final series in this, the fourth year of the Challenge. Victory was hard to come by at that stage. Nobody won without a fight, but compared with what will have been required of the winners come tomorrow night, it was but a stroll in the park.

The standard of golf in the regional finals was uniformly high and there were probably more close finishes this year than in any two of the competition's other three seasons put together. Add to that the fact that the players here will be performing on a top-class layout — the South course at the Hyatt La Manga Club Resort — and that they will be doing so under the stern and unforgiving eye of the television cameras, and some idea can be gained of the task every one of them is about to face.

This final is the culmination of the most successful year yet for the Challenge. Almost 1,000 company golf days were registered with the event through spring, summer and early autumn and that puts the tournament firmly in the uppermost bracket of amateur golf competitions in the British Isles.

For the first time in the competition's history, nobody playing in Spain has taken part in a Challenge national final before, so the dramatic facelift that has been carried out on the course in the past year will not be obvious to them. The one thing that all were agreed on after practice yesterday was that the beautiful South will not yield Stableford points without a struggle to the death.

Water has always been a feature of the course, but the difference now is that the lakes have been enlarged and made more of an obvious hazard than in the past. Often the water should not come into play, but everybody who has played golf will know that water attracts golf balls like a magnet picks up iron filings.

To attempt to pick a winner from the 12 teams is to risk the loss of reputation in the punditry department. In the regional finals there was a 19-point gap between the lowest winning score and the highest, but a cogent argument could be made that the three teams with 85 points played as well as the Jaguar Centre (Hull), who had a Challenge record-breaking 104 points in their regional final at Breadsall Priory.

If mere scores are an indicator, Jaguar will take some beating, but there were sterling performances from all their rivals. The most impressive concentrated burst of scoring was produced by Reuter, winners at Chart Hills with 97 points, who scored 51 points on the back nine and 64 in the last 11 holes on the demanding Nick Faldo-designed course.

The National Investigation Service of HM Customs and Excise went closest to emulating Reuter, their front nine of 49 at the last regional final at Mentmore setting them on their way to victory with 90 points. ZET Insurance Services were the fourth and last team to reach or beat 90 points — their victory came at the Forest of Arden.

The above quartet will naturally be among the favourites for the winners' spoils after 36 holes of Stableford golf. However, let it be said that none of the foregoing constitutes a prediction. It is much, much too close to call for that.

LA MANGA TEAMS

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE HEAD OFFICE: G Dickens, P Rignall, P Robathan, I Bowden.

ARMSTRONG WATSON & CO: A Robinson, J Franklin, J Robinson, K Ward

ARTHUR ANDERSON: S Finlay, P Muir, N Alcock, S McCready

CHARLES RUSSELL: P Pearce, P Russell, J Henderson, R Sewell.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE: P Hope, A Jackson, W Grace, D Maltby.

HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE: M Woodall, C Tennant, J Nicholson, C Shaw

JAGUAR CENTRE (Hull): B Borrill, B Calam, M Betts, H Atkin

NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS ASSOCIATION: E McCarron, R McGrath, G Boden, J Johnston.

REUTERS: R Thompson, R Ballou, N Hardy, D Bennett

SETON HEALTHCARE GROUP: I Cater, D George, A Brown, M Bahbout

UNITED DISTILLERS: I Ross, G Haggart, B Miller, C Tennant.

ZET INSURANCE SERVICES: C Constantinou, A Jones, D Lait, M Morgan.

Woods has strong competition for top billing

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA is awash with American celebrities at the moment: Tiger Woods is down under for the Australian Open golf championship: Bill Clinton is also in Sydney for some golf and a chat with Prime Minister Howard; and Michael Jackson, pregnant wife almost in tow, is doing whatever it is Michael Jackson does — although there has been no sighting of him on a golf course thus far.

The President has been lobbying hard to play golf with Greg Norman during his visit and Norman was keen to oblige. Clinton had nothing specific scheduled for this afternoon — his wife, Hillary, was due to speak at the Opera House on the subject "Women in the 21st Century" — and Norman had an early first-round hit-off time (Australian for tee-off) at The Australian.

The venue was expected to be the New South Wales course, a scenic and testing seaside links that might exhaust even the reportedly prolific presidential supply of mulligans if the wind blows. (Mulligan is golfspeak for having another go, if the first shot is not to your liking, and the President is supposed to be partial to them.)

In the morning, Norman will be playing with Craig Parry and David Gleeson, an amateur from Queensland who has been mixing in high company this week. Gleeson and Jamie Crow, who were in Australia's four-man team that won the Eisenhower Trophy, the world amateur team championship, in Manila last week, partnered Woods in practice yesterday.

Gleeson even had the distinction of introducing Woods and Butch Harmon, his coach, to a bunker shot they had not seen before. It involved taking a right-handed club and addressing the ball left-handed, with the club-face towards the sky. The shot produced was a shovel-cum-scoop (when it worked at all), but Woods seemed intrigued and the trick might soon be incorporated in his repertoire.

Woods, 9-2 second favourite behind Norman, the 7-2 favourite, was scheduled to be the afternoon attraction at The Australian, playing with those old hands, Peter McWhinney and Peter Senior.

Robert Allenby returns to competition here, much earlier than anticipated, after fracturing his sternum in a car crash. His injuries have healed and he has played three rounds since Sunday. The 7,046-yard course will undoubtedly be too much for Allenby at present, but at least his rehabilitation is well under way.

David Howell, Gary Evans and Richard Boxall, of England, are also competing, along with Paul McGinley, of Ireland.

SNOOKER

Hendry in focus for television action cue

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY is not easily satisfied. Even after beating Rob Milkins 9-5, to reach the last 16 of the United Kingdom championship in Preston yesterday, the title-holder expressed reservations about his form.

Hendry has now won 14 consecutive matches in an event second only in prestige to the world championship, in which his unbeaten sequence stands at 25. The Scot's attempt to lift the UK trophy for the fifth time since 1989 continues on Saturday against Anthony Hamilton or David Gray.

"I can't believe how badly I'm struggling," Hendry, who surprisingly entered the concluding session on level terms at 4-4, said: "I led 4-1 but the wheels fell off, so to say I'm relieved to get through is an understatement."

Hendry won the scrappy opening frame of the afternoon to edge 5-4 ahead before delivering a crushing blow to any lingering hopes Milkins had of causing an upset, by recovering from a 45-17 deficit with a 77 clearance initiated by the potting of a long red.

With the exception of the twelfth frame, snatched by Milkins on the black after he had required a snooker, it was relatively plain sailing from that point as further runs of 56, 52, 69 and 61 ensured Hendry's progress.

Despite his less-than-impressive start to the championship, and indeed to the 1996-97 campaign in general, Hendry remains optimistic about making a successful defence. "I'm expecting myself to fly now because when the television cameras arrive I always feel more at home," he said.

Paul Hunter, 18, and Joe Johnson, his 44-year-old mentor, accompanied Hendry into the last 16 by overcoming Thai opposition. Johnson, the 1986 world champion, defeated Tai Pichit 9-6, while Hunter again underlined his potential by beating James Wattana, the twelfth seed, 9-5.

Hunter, who became the youngest semi-finalist in a world-ranking tournament at the Regal Welsh Open in January, compiled four century breaks in securing a meeting with Terry Murphy, the conqueror of Ronnie O'Sullivan in the first round. The most prominent rookie of last season allowed Wattana to collect only 39 points in the closing three frames as he made runs of 105, 56 and 100, which followed clearances of 100 and 136 during the opening session on Tuesday.

John Parrott, the 1991 UK champion, went into the concluding phase of his second-round match against Martin Clark last night 5-3 adrift and requiring six of the remaining nine frames to avoid an unexpected exit.

Results, page 49

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RACING: BOOKMAKERS SHORTEN THE GREY MONK TO 7-4 FOR HENNESSY

Clouds gather over Suny Bay

By Julian Muscat

THE GREY MONK tightened his stranglehold on the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup after Suny Bay, recently deposed as favourite by the Gordon Richards-trained chaser, suffered an internal haemorrhage at Kempton yesterday.

Suny Bay came home last of the five finishers in the Limber Hill Handicap Chase. The seven-year-old fell apart after two miles, prompting concern about his wellbeing, and his participation at Newbury a week on Saturday is now in serious doubt.

Charlie Brooks, who trains the horse, suspected the worst. "He was disappointing," he said. "I expected him to run much better than that." And the trainer's initial concern proved justified when his assistant, Ed James, reported Suny Bay's bleeding to the Kempton stewards.

Bookmakers reacted by deleting Suny Bay from their Hennessy book, with William Hill advancing The Grey Monk to 7-4 favourite. The firm then bets: 6-1 Challenger Du Luc, 8-1 Billygoat Gruff, Coome Hill, 10-1 Addington Boy, 12-1 and upwards others.

Brooks said he would analyse a tracheal wash from Suny Bay before taking a firm decision, although he conceded Suny Bay was unlikely to take his chance. But just as worrying are the implications for his stable as a whole. "The horses have been running very well, but what happened to Suny Bay might indicate that there is a viral infection about," he said.

It was not all bad news for Brooks. He watched Suny Bay's effort from Haydock, where Couldnt Be Better ran a more encouraging Hennessy trial when chasing home Unguided Missile in the Edward Hanmer Memorial Handicap Chase.

Couldnt Be Better won the Hennessy 12 months ago, taking in this prize along the way from a mark 17lb lower in the handicap. "I thought he ran well," ventured the trainer. "He was a bit rusty — he didn't jump as well as he can."

The Haydock result emphasised that Gordon Richards, who trains Unguided Missile, houses an embarrassment of riches among three-mile chasers.

Addington Boy remains no more than a Hennessy deputy to The Grey Monk, but Unguided Missile may yet accompany his stablemate to Newbury. The eight-year-old would be more celebrated were he less inclined to root the odd fence. His relative youth encourages the belief he may yet make his mark: Hills rate him a 12-1 chance.

Jamie Osborne dominated the card at Kempton. He rode three outright winners before forcing a dead-heat on Berude Not To, who dipped his head at precisely the right moment to share the spoils with Fine Thyne in the Halliford Novices' Chase. Appropriately enough, Osborne initiated his winning sequence aboard Not For Turning, a three-parts brother to Berude Not To, who just contained Royal Event's late flurry in the EBF Novices' Hurdle.

David Gandolfo, who trains Royal Event, has Osborne on his side when Trying Again, a leading novice last term, jumped soundly to fend off Old Bridge in the Limber Hill Handicap Chase over 2½ miles. Gandolfo is keen to step Trying Again up to three miles in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow next month.

But the most promising display came from Mulligan, who ran clean away from his rivals in the Staines Novices' Chase. On this evidence, Mulligan will be something to entertain in the Arkle Chase at the Cheltenham festival.

[illegible]

Nap: EASTERN RIVER
(1.20 Warwick)
Next best: Idiot's Lady
(3.20 Warwick)

Trying Again helps Osborne to a four-timer at Kempton yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Pertemps sponsors Kempton festival

THE campaign to revive the fortunes of Kempton Park opened yesterday when the executive announced a new sponsor for the Christmas festival and outlined plans for an £8.4 million redevelopment of the Sunbury site (Julian Muscat writes).

In a one-year package, the Pertemps group, sponsor of three Flat classics, is to support all 12 races at the track's premier fixture. The deal has underpinned the two-day meeting, which will distribute £270,000 in added prize-money.

The Festival's highlight is the £100,000-added Pertemps King George VI Chase, which is expected to attract One Man, Algan and Barton Bank, the last three winners of the race. Pertemps has also secured an option to extend its backing for a further two years.

Kempton's link with Pertemps kick-starts the fixture's promotion as a major racing festival in the suburbs of London. "We are going to put every effort into achieving the level of success enjoyed by the three-day meeting at Aintree," Andrew Wates, chairman of United Racecourses (UR), said.

While upwards of 20,000 racegoers regularly flock to Kempton for the King George on Boxing Day, the Christmas Hurdle, which highlights the card 24 hours later, fails to attract half that number. This is symptomatic of the track's fortunes, which have declined because of lack of investment in facilities over the last decade. "We have lost our core audience," Wates accepted. "We must now work hard to attract them back."

Racecourse Holdings Trust (RHT), which bought Kempton, Epsom and Sandown in a package two years ago, is committed to revitalising the track. "Facilities are limited," Sue Ellen, managing director of UR, the umbrella company which runs the three courses, said. "Kempton has fallen behind other sporting facilities in this area and research has told us the course is not offering value to racegoers."

The planned grandstand renovation, together with a resiting of the paddock, is to benefit ordinary racegoers as opposed to corporate concerns. Banqueting suites behind the stand are to be demolished, allowing racegoers closer access to the horses. Work commences in February and is due for completion before the Christmas festival next year.

Sporting Index limits risk factor

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

AN ATTEMPT to make sports spread betting accessible to small punters by reducing the level of financial risk was unveiled yesterday by Sporting Index.

Minimum stakes as low as 25p and a guaranteed maximum loss of £50 on any bet struck at the lowest staking level is aimed at eliminating the perception that the potential dangers of spread betting are too great for more modest backers.

Sports spread betting has been the betting success story of the 1990s but with punters liable to win, or lose, up to 200 times their stake — on Test cricket runs, for example — the risks are high and it has tended to attract the big backers.

The launch of Sporting Index Select is effectively a training ground for new clients who will be able to try out spread betting without losing hundreds or thousands of pounds if they get a bet horrendously wrong.

Compton Hellyer, chairman of Sporting Index, said: "We need to take our message to those punters who want to try spread betting — with limited risk. Its brief will be both to explain and to protect. We see Select as opening up a whole new audience to spread betting and we expect to attract 2,500 clients by the end of 1997."

He added: "Every bet with Select will have a fixed limit with regard to the amount that can be won or lost. And there is a maximum loss or win of £50 on any bet struck with Select at the minimum staking level. We will guarantee this figure whatever the result."

The Sporting Index innovation comes only weeks after talks broke down with City Index over a possible merger and before Ladbrokes enters the spread betting business.

☐ Tony McCoy was last night deciding whether to appeal against a three-day suspension for whip abuse. McCoy, who needs two more winners to reach the fastest century in a season, was banned for three days (November 28-30) by the Newton Abbot stewards on Tuesday for using his whip with unreasonable force aboard James The First.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

1.20 Flapjack Lad
1.50 Shuttlecock
2.20 Runaway Pete
2.50 Dromhana
3.20 Sounds Strong
3.50 Break The Rules

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.50 CHICKAWICKA.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.20 ETHELFLEDA'S MOUNT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,149: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

101 P-1U332 HENLEY WOOD 7 (F,G,S) (A Scrimgeour) P Hobbs 11-11-10 ... D J Kavanagh 94
102 F141-32 FLAPJACK LAD 20 (F,G,S) (T Dunsley) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-10 ... D Walsh 93
103 234442 CHANNEL PASTIME 12 (D,G) (Mrs S Worthington) D Burchell 12-11-5 .. Guy Lewis 95
104 UP223P- RIVER RED 294 (F) (K Frost) K Frost 10-10-5 ... K Gaule 90
105 3U3-312 CRACKLING FROST 27 (D,BF,F,G) (Unlucky For Some) Mrs D Haine 8-10-3 G Hogan 94
106 0/F013- EASTERN RIVER 247 (D,G,S) (Gamston Equine) T Forster 10-10-0 ... A Bates [illegible]

BETTING: 7-4 Flapjack Lad, 11-4 Channel Pastime, 3-1 Henley Wood, 7-1 Crackling Frost, 10-1 River Red, Eastern River.

1995: LARRY'S LORD 6-10-12 Guy Lewis (7-4) P Nicholls 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

HENLEY WOOD 1l 2nd of 6 to La Mezeray in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good to firm) FLAPJACK LAD 2½l 2nd of 8 to Major Bell in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). CHANNEL PASTIME 2½l 2nd of 11 to Monks Jay in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good) CRACKLING FROST 8l 2nd of 4 to Crafty Chaplain in handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good) EASTERN RIVER 5¼l 3rd of 11 to Wrekengale in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good).
Selection: FLAPJACK LAD

1.50 HARBURY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,691: 2m 3f) (13 runners)

201 002010- COXWELL STEPTOE 188 (S) (M Allsopp) Miss H Knight 6-11-10 Mr A Wintle (7) 90
202 114302 HACKETTS CROSS 9 (F,G) (G Briscoe) P Eccles 8-11-8 ... A P McCoy [illegible]
203 012 SHUTTLECOCK 14F (BF,F) (Mrs N Macauley) Mrs N Macauley 5-11-4 A Maguire 95
204 30202/0 JOHN NAMAN 21 (F,G) (M Clarke) D Geraghty 7-10-13 ... G Supple (7) —
205 52-0P42 GUNMAKER 53 (G,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 7-10-8 ... Mr J L Llewellyn 96
206 00/16P-2 TAMANDU 7 (G) (R Shaw) C James 6-10-7 ... Mr E James 98
207 564340 RAY RIVER 19 (B,F,G) (M Foulger) K Wingrove 4-10-3 ... J Ryan 97
208 43261F KING OF BABYLON 36 (F) (R Hancocks) F Jordan 4-10-3 ... R Supple 96
209 P0-0P06 SIR PAGEANT 9 (B,G,S) (Dirty Dozen) K Bridgwater 7-10-0 ... D Bridgwater 92
210 213-250 BRIGHT SAPPHIRE 13 (F,G,S) (D Roderick) D Burchell 10-10-0. D J Burchell 96
211 PP/PR0 COLOUR SCHEME 7 (V,G) (G Searle) H Howe 9-10-0 ... B Powell —
212 03203P- KATBALLOU 439 (M Foulger) K Wingrove 7-10-0 ... Mr O McPhail (7) 93
213 5FP-6P COMMANCHE STORM 13 (Miss K McDaide) W Mann 4-10-0 ... Mr P Scott —

Long handicap: Sir Pageant 9-13, Bright Sapphire 9-13, Colour Scheme 9-8, Katballou 9-3, Commanche Storm 8-8.

BETTING: 7-2 Shuttlecock, 9-2 Tamandu, 6-1 Hacketts Cross, 7-1 Coxwell Steptoe, 8-1 Gunmaker, 10-1 Ray River, King Of Babylon. 12-1 others

1995: CONVOY 5-10-10 Muredach Kelly (16-1) C Mann 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

COXWELL STEPTOE beat Peter Monamy 21l in 15-runner selling novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good to soft) on penultimate start, with KING OF BABYLON (16lb better off) 19½l 4th. HACKETTS CROSS 3½l 2nd of 14 to Burlington Sam in conditional jockeys selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm) with SIR PAGEANT (1lb worse off) 7½l 6th.
SHUTTLECOCK beat Nonios 2½l in 8-runner claiming hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm) on penultimate start. GUNMAKER 2½l 2nd of 10 to Better Bythe Glass in selling handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (3m 3f, good to firm) TAMANDU 6l 2nd of 10 to Willy Star in selling hurdle at Towcester (2m, good) RAY RIVER about 6½l 4th of 11 to Minnesota Fats in conditional jockeys selling handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. KING OF BABYLON beat Lac De Gras 3½l in 6-runner selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: SHUTTLECOCK

2.20 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE / JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION SERIES HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,909: 2m 3f) (7 runners)

301 3501-10 TEEN JAY 12 (F,G,S) (Gemini Associates) B Llewellyn 6-12-0 ... V Slattery 96
302 P012-16 RUNAWAY PETE 12 (CD,F,G) (J Smeaden) M Pipe 6-12-0 ... A P McCoy 96
303 22/311-4 KHALIDI 8 (C,F,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 7-11-7 ... Sophie Mitchell (5) 90
304 P01/613- GROUSEMAN 201 (B,D,F,G,S) (Aquarius) Miss H Knight 10-11-6 Mr A Wintle (7) [illegible]
305 5106- DOMAPPEL 26F (G) (M Banks) Mrs J Cecil 4-10-11 ... T Kent 91
306 10- WINSFORD HILL 363 (G) (Sir Horse Power) P Hobbs 5-10-0 ... A Maguire 91
307 000-001 ROSEHALL 16 (CD,F) (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 5-10-0 G Hogan (3) 75

Long handicap: Rosehall 8-7.

BETTING: 9-4 Grouseman, 3-1 Khalidi, 7-2 Runaway Pete, 5-1 Domappel, 7-1 Teen Jay, 8-1 Winsford Hill, 16-1 Rosehall.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

TEEN JAY beat Nahn 1½l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start. RUNAWAY PETE 34½l 6th of 10 to Castle Sweep in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with TEEN JAY 35½l 8th. Previously beat Morstock 4l in 5-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) KHALIDI 14l 4th of 8 to Tejano in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) GROUSEMAN 3l 3rd of 10 to Tullymurry Toff in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). DOMAPPEL best effort last term beat Daffy Boy short-head in 20-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) WINSFORD HILL beat Zaitun 10l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start. ROSEHALL beat Wanstead neck in 9-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm)
Selection: RUNAWAY PETE (nap)

2.50 SHIRLEY MAIDEN CHASE (£3,691: 3m 2f) (9 runners)

401 21F0- ANYTHINGYOULIKE 210 (S) (Bowling Green Garage) C Smith 7-11-5 M Richards —
402 343/00- CONEY ROAD 222 (Mrs M Grant) C Brooks 7-11-5 ... D Gallagher —
403 DROMHANA (J Blackwell) P Nicholls 6-11-5 ... A P McCoy —
404 4P INCH EMPEROR 8 (T Cullen) A Carroll 6-11-5 ... T J Murphy —
405 /P/P52-4 PARLIAMENTARIAN 15 (J Wales) T Casey 7-11-5 ... D Bridgwater 98
406 0P/U/04- THE BRUD 212 (Mrs J Bishop) O Sherwood 8-11-5 ... J Osborne 80
407 326/5F5- THE SHY PADRE 258 (M Bateman) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-5 ... W Marston [illegible]
408 ARCTIC MADAM 306P (F,G) (C Barber) P Nicholls 7-11-0 ... O Burrows (7) —
409 0P- PEPTIC LADY 278P (D Silk) M Pipe 6-11-0 ... C Maude —

BETTING: 5-2 Coney Road, 4-1 Dromhana, 5-1 The Brud, 6-1 Arctic Madam, 8-1 The Shy Padre, Peptic Lady 10-1 others.

1995: CLASS OF NINETYTWO 16 (F,G,S) 6-11-2 A Maguire (13-2) T Forster 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

CONEY ROAD 36l 9th of 14 to Mandys Mantino in novice hurdle at Ascot (3m 4f, good to soft) INCH EMPEROR 38l 4th of 6 to Mony Skip in novice chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, firm) on penultimate start. PARLIAMENTARIAN dist 4th of 5 to Baronet in novice chase at Kempton (3m, good) THE BRUD 32½l 4th of 10 to Fools Errand in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft) THE SHY PADRE dist 5th of 6 to Smiling Chief in novice handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). ARCTIC MADAM beat Tilderg 2l in 12-runner hunt at Charlton Horethorne (3m, firm).
PEPTIC LADY 32l 7th of 24 to Andanito in National Hunt Flat race at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: THE BRUD

3.20 SHIPSTON HANDICAP CHASE (£6,736: 3m 2f) (4 runners)

501 1P11F-1 IDIOT'S LADY 12 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Ollivant) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-10 W Marston 96
502 11113-2 CLASS OF NINETYTWO (CD) (Lord Cadogan) Capt T Forster 7-11-5 A P McCoy 94
503 2/1F-1 SOUNDS STRONG 25 (G) (Mrs David Thompson) D Nicholson 7-11-4 A Maguire 97
504 3/03111- FULL OF OATS 264 (CD,G,S) (I MacDonald) Miss H Knight 10-11-2 Mr A Wintle (7) [illegible]

BETTING: 7-4 Sounds Strong, 5-2 Class of Ninetytwo, 11-4 Full of Oats, 3-1 Idiot's Lady

1995: TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE 7-11-4 L Wyer (7-2) M H Easterby 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

IDIOT'S LADY beat Rectory Garden 5l in 6-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good to firm) CLASS OF NINETYTWO 7l 2nd of 7 to Fools Errand in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). SOUNDS STRONG beat McGregor The Third 6l in 6-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). FULL OF OATS completed treble beat Beaurepaire neck in 12-runner handicap chase here (3m 5f, good)
Selection: SOUNDS STRONG

3.50 ASHORNE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,721: 2m) (15 runners)

601 22/-1 CHICKAWICKA 16 (CD,F) (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 5-11-5 R Farrant [illegible]
602 25 ABOVE THE CUT 5 (J & J Cook) C Morlock 4-10-12 ... C Maude 95
603 BREAK THE RULES 26F (A Lomas) M Pipe 4-10-12 ... A P McCoy —
604 000- DON'T MIND IF I DO 228 (Mrs J Addison) P Webber 5-10-12 ... Mr P Scott —
605 0 EVEZIO RUFO 10F (V) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 4-10-12 ... J R Kavanagh —
606 16- HURRICANE LAMP 257 (S) (F Welch) D Nicholson 5-10-12 ... A Maguire —
607 15- KILCARNE BAY 243 (G) (Compass Partners) O Sherwood 6-10-12 ... J Osborne —
608 MR DARCY 45SF (R Nicholls) P Webber 4-10-12 ... R Bellamy —
609 MR ROUGH 69F (R Akehurst) D Morris 5-10-12 ... M Richards —
610 60-3 SMOLENSK 12 (Mrs C Deuters) J Berry 4-10-12 ... M Moloney 89
611 P-2 TOMAL 43 (Tolly Partnership) R Ingram 4-10-12 ... D Gallagher 96
612 43- WHITE CLARET 21F (Hol To Trot Partners) R Akehurst 4-10-12 ... D Bridgwater —
613 40/ BECKY'S GIRL 1149 (Baskerville Racing) R Brotherton 6-10-7 ... P Holley —
614 PERSIAN BUTTERFLY 69F (D Hallums) R Stronge 4-10-7 ... B Powell —
615 35 THE DEACONESS 16 (Mrs J Clarke) Mrs A King 5-10-7 ... Gary Lyons 72

BETTING: 3-1 Break The Rules, 7-2 Chickawicka, 6-1 Smolensk, 7-1 Hurricane Lamp, 8-1 Kilcarne Bay, White Claret. 10-1 Mr Rough, 12-1 others.

1995: KARSHI 5-10-12 J F Titley (7-1) Miss H Knight 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHICKAWICKA beat ABOVE THE CUT (7lb better off) 7l in 15-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) with THE DEACONESS (7lb better off) 23l 5th. HURRICANE LAMP 12¾l 8th of 22 to Marching Marquis in National Hunt Flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft) with DON'T MIND IF I DO (7lb worse off) 44l 17th. KILCARNE BAY beat Tipping The Line head in 10-runner National Hunt Flat race here (2m, good) on penultimate start. SMOLENSK 5l and neck 3rd of 12 to Mywend's in maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm) TOMAL 1¾l 2nd of 5 to Young Radical in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm). WHITE CLARET 11¼l 3rd of 5 to Trade Dispute in maiden hurdle at Roscommon (2m, good to firm).
Selection: CHICKAWICKA

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Webber	3	8	37.5	A P McCoy	11	30	36.7
M Pipe	28	110	25.5	A Maguire	16	78	20.5
Miss H Knight	9	38	23.7	J Osborne	13	68	19.1
D Nicholson	20	93	21.5	D Bridgwater	7	50	14.0
D Sherwood	8	38	21.1	D Gallagher	3	23	13.0
Mrs J Pitman	14	67	20.9	W Marston	9	79	11.4

[illegible]

THUNDERER

1.30 Ashby Hill. 2.00 Ramallah. 2.30 LE MEILLE (nap). 3.00 Phar From Funny. 3.30 Guinda. 4.00 Southsea Scandals.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.30 U W E S U STILL STANDING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,268: 2m) (5 runners)

1 3-64 WAYFARERS WAY 21 (BF) N Henderson 5-11-10 M A Fitzgerald 97
2 546- ASHBY HILL 18F R Rowe 5-11-4 ... D O'Sullivan 94
3 -404 SAMAKA HARA 25 G Roe 4-11-2 ... T Jenks 94
4 22-6 ELEANORA MUSE 188 P Farrell 6-10-7 ... R Dunwoody [illegible]
5 606- CALVARO 247 A Jarvis 5-10-8 ... R Johnson 90

6-11 Ashby Hill, 9-2 Wayfarers Way, 6-1 Samaka Hara, 7-1 Calvaro, 8-1 Eleanora Muse.

2.00 TOTE BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,049: 2m 5f) (15)

1 U-31 MARINERS MIRROR 10 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-12-1 (6ex) Mr M Rimell 86
2 22-6 ZAITOON 47 (F,G) D Nicholson 5-11-11 ... R Johnson —
3 240- AT THE GROVE 199 K Bailey 6-11-11 ... C O'Dwyer —
4 22-2 BIRONI 13 (D,BF,F,G,S) T Forster 7-11-8 ... S Wynne [illegible]
5 121- RAMALLAH 178 (G,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-1 ... B Fenton —
6 426- WHIRLY 234 R Alner 7-11-1 ... S McNeill —
7 2P5- HIGHLAND JACK 276 (G) A Turnell 6-10-10 ... R Dunwoody 94
8 4551 LEGAL ARTIST 9 (F,S) Miss C Johnsey 6-10-8 (6ex) L Harvey 94
9 04-3 CRACKING PROSPECT 18 B Millman 5-10-4 ... D Salter (5) —
10 -P45 DECOR 17 R Hodges 6-10-0 ... T Dascombe (3) —
11 000- PURBECK RAMBLER 244 G Balding 5-10-0 ... B Clifford —
12 P-33 STORMHILL PILGRIM 12 (B,F,G) M Roberts 7-10-0 P McLoughlin 86
13 BPP- FENNY BALL 253 T Forster 8-10-0 ... A Thornton —
14 00-4 MASTER PANGLOSS 22 A Turnell 6-10-0 ... C Rae (7) 82
15 55P- SWEET BUCK 183 R Pugh 7-10-0 ... M Sharratt —

6-4 Mariners Mirror, 6-1 At The Grove, 7-1 Bironi, Ramallah, 8-1 Zaitoon, Legal Artist. 10-1 Highland Jack, 12-1 others.

2.30 HAMILTON LITESTAT HANDICAP CHASE (£6,775: 3m 1f 110yd) (7)

1 21/ FLASHTHECASH 594 (D,F,S) C Egerton 10-11-11 J A McCarthy —
2 5-5P TUG OF PEACE 12 (CD,F,G,S) G Balding 9-11-8 ... B Clifford 98
3 212- LE MEILLE 224 (F,G) A Jarvis 7-11-0 ... R Johnson [illegible]
4 11- ANDRE LAVAL 254 (G,S) K Bailey 7-10-11 ... C O'Dwyer 90
5 22P- BEAUREPAIRE 226 (G,S) R Alner 8-10-9 ... S McNeill 98
6 1132 RAINBOW CASTLE 9 (BF,F,G) P Nicholls 9-10-6 ... P Hide 91
7 2/4- MR INVADER 362 (S) N Gaselee 9-10-3 ... C Llewellyn 80

3-1 Le Meille, 7-2 Andre Laval, 4-1 Flashthecash, 9-2 Rainbow Castle, 6-1 Beaurepaire, 7-1 Mr Invader, 16-1 Tug Of Peace.

3.00 TOTE BETTING SHOP HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,470: 2m) (4)

1 -113 HAMILTON SILK 12 (D,F,G) M Pipe 4-12-0 ... R Dunwoody 93
2 4U22 MORSTOCK 15 (CD,G) R Hodges 6-10-10 .. T Dascombe (3) 88
3 01-2 PHAR FROM FUNNY 12 (D,F) G Balding 5-10-6 ... B Fenton 97
4 014- VISION OF FREEDOM 174 (D,F,G) S Cole 8-10-5. A Thornton [illegible]

4-5 Hamilton Silk, 7-2 Phar From Funny, 9-2 Morstock, 6-1 Vision of Freedom.

3.30 E B F TATTERSALLS IRELAND MARES NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,457: 2m) (5)

1 U2-1 SECOND CALL 7 (D,F,G,S) T Forster 7-11-4 ... R Dunwoody [illegible]
2 0-3U BRIDEPARK ROSE 13 (S) P Ritchens 8-10-12 ... S Fox 89
3 256- GUINDA 243 (F) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 ... C Llewellyn —
4 36-6 KOO'S PROMISE 16 C Popham 5-10-12 ... T Dascombe (3) —
5 524P UP THE TEMPO 15 P Farrell 7-10-12 ... A Thornton —

5-4 Second Call, 11-8 Guinda, 6-1 Bridepark Rose, 10-1 Koo's Promise, 20-1 Up The Tempo

4.00 GREAT WESTERN NOVICES HURDLE (£3,834: 2m 6f) (13)

1 -011 HUNTERS ROCK 23 (F) K Bailey 7-11-10 ... C O'Dwyer [illegible]
2 40-1 MILLERSFORD 15 (G) N Gaselee 5-11-5 ... C Llewellyn 86
3 210- ATAVISTIC 236 (G) C Popham 4-11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald —
4 005- BLACK STATEMENT 247 A Jarvis 6-11-0 ... R Johnson —
5 6/ CAPTAIN JACK 677 M Pipe 6-11-0 ... R Dunwoody —
6 P/4 KILMINGTON 25 J Gifford 7-11-0 ... P Hide 79
7 253- MENESONIC 190 R Alner 6-11-0 ... P Henley (3) —
8 006 MR JASPER 25 (B) N Thomson 4-11-0 ... S Burrough —
9 RED BRONZE C Barwell 5-11-0 ... B Fenton —
10 34-4 SOUTHSEA SCANDALS 38 K Bishop 5-11-0 ... R Greene 82
11 24-0 THE BREWER 16 J Tuck 4-11-0 ... S McNeill —
12 0P-P YOUNG TYCOON 8 A J Wilson 5-11-0 ... L Harvey 71
13 /P-5 MISS SECRET 15 C Mitchell 6-10-9 ... A Thornton —

5-4 Hunters Rock, 4-1 Captain Jack, 9-2 Millersford, 12-1 Kilmington, 16-1 Atavistic, Menesonic, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WINCANTON: Trainers: M Pipe, 35 winners from 128 runners, 27.3%; Miss H Knight, 7 from 30, 23.3%; N Twiston-Davies, 10 from 47, 21.3%; K Bailey, 9 from 55, 16.4%; A Turnell, 6 from 37, 16.2%; P Nicholls, 18 from 112, 16.1%. Jockeys: R Dunwoody, 29 winners from 124 rides, 23.4%; P Hide, 5 from 32, 15.6%; T Jenks, 3 from 20, 15%; C Llewellyn, 7 from 49, 14.3%; S McNeill, 8 from 65, 12.3%; T Dascombe, 4 from 40, 10.0%.

SEDGEFIELD: Trainers: P Bowen, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; F Murphy, 3 from 8, 37.5%; P Haslam, 3 from 9, 33.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 70 from 236, 29.7%; Mrs D Thomson, 3 from 11, 27.3%; J Fitzgerald, 13 from 51, 25.5%. Jockeys: Miss P Jones, 3 winners from 4 rides, 75.0%; Jacqui Oliver, 6 from 14, 42.9%; P Niven, 57 from 176, 32.4%; Mr N Wilson, 3 from 12, 25.0%; L Wyer, 24 from 115, 20.9%; M Dwyer, 22 from 112, 19.6%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Sedgefield: 12.40 Flyaway Blues, 1.40 Rye Crossing, Alicharger. Warwick: 3.50 Evezio Rufo. Wincanton: 2.00 Stormhill Pilgrim, 4.00 Mr Jasper

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER

12.40 Fly To The End. 1.10 Huso. 1.40 Twin Falls. 2.10 Sparrow Hall. 2.40 Val De Rama. 3.10 Our Rainbow. 3.40 Shining Edge.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.40 JOHN WADE HINO TRUCK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,933: 2m 1f) (11 runners)

1 -305 ANORAK 13 (CD,F) G Moore 6-12-0 ... N Hannity (7)
2 F642 FLYAWAY BLUES 19 (B,BF) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-10 .. P Niven
3 2-45 TRIENNIUM 5 (CD,F) P Monteith 7-11-8 ... A Dobbin
4 -F60 CHAPEL OF BARRAS 14 (D,G,S) B Gee 7-11-7 ... Mr P Gee
5 1624 SIMAND 37 (BF,G) G Moore 4-11-4 ... J Callaghan
6 F-00 SAYRAF DANCER 6 Mrs A Naughton 7-11-2 ... M Foster
7 5-53 ANTARTICTERN 13 G Oldroyd 6-11-2 ... G Cahill (3)
8 -P50 CANDID LAD 51 (CD,F,S) F Storey 9-11-1 ... B Storey
9 0501 FLY TO THE END 21 (CD,F,S) J Quinn 6-11-1 ... L Wyer
10 00-P HEAVENS ABOVE 37 F Murphy 4-10-0 ... N Williamson
11 P0-0 SHUT UP 21 (B,CD,G) Mrs E Moscrop 7-10-0 C McCormack (7)

7-4 Flyaway Blues, 9-2 Fly To The End, 6-1 Anorak, Triennium, 8-1 Simand, Antartictern, 20-1 others

1.10 HATHAWAY'S LADY JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,961: 2m 5f 110yd) (8)

1 2112 SUPERTOP 26 (BF,F,G) L Lungo 8-12-0 ... Miss P Jones (5)
2 0-22 BAHER 10 (BF) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-2 ... Miss V Haigh (7)
3 -122 HUSO 6 (CD,F,S) P Haslam 8-11-2 ... Miss P Robson (5)
4 3/-5 MANETTIA 21 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 Miss A Deniel (7)
5 453- TIM SOLDIER 199 (B,S) M Barraclough 9-10-10 ... Ann Stokell
6 45-P SOLOMAN SPRINGS 27 (V,F) Mrs V Ward 6-10-8 Jacqui Oliver
7 5-10 PEGGY GORDON 21 (C,F) Mrs D Thomson 5-10-5 Miss E J Jones (7)
8 /5-0 WE'RE IN THE MONEY 6 (G) Miss J Bower 12-10-0 Claudine Froggitt (7)

11-4 Huso, 3-1 Supertop, 4-1 Baher, 6-1 Manettia, 7-1 Peggy Gordon, 8-1 others.

1.40 W A STEPHENSON MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£4,133: 2m 5f) (16)

1 P123 LE DENSTAN 8 (CD,F) Mrs D Thomson 9-11-4 ... T Reed
2 P-60 OVERWHELM 8 (G) V Thompson 8-11-2 ... K Jones
3 ALFIE Mrs M Reveley 7-10-12 ... P Niven
4 -P56 ALICHARGER 8 (V) P Monteith 6-10-12 ... G Cahill (3)
5 8S-1 BASSENHALLY 13 (B) Mrs P Sly 6-10-12 ... R Marley
6 F00- GALLERNOY 204 (S) D Lamb 6-10-12 ... J Burke
7 463- CAMPTOSAURUS 177 D Alder 7-10-12 ... K Johnson
8 064- DARK BUOY 229 B Mactaggart 7-10-12 ... B Storey
9 SU DAWN LAD 9 Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-12 ... J Supple
10 U4-0 MOUNTAIN FOX 13 V Thompson 6-10-12 ... Mr M Thompson
11 10/ OAT COUTURE 570 (S) L Lungo 8-10-12 ... M Dwyer
12 24-3 RYE CROSSING 19 (B,F) T Easterby 6-10-12 ... L Wyer
13 54PU SEE YOU ALWAYS 6 (F) M Barnes 6-10-12 ... N Williamson
14 SPRINGHILL QUAY 597P (G) G Richards 7-10-12 ... A Dobbin
15 05-0 SHALLOW RIVER 10 (G) R Collins 5-10-11 ... B Harding
16 -225 TWIN FALLS 8 (G) G Moore 5-10-11 ... J Callaghan

7-4 Rye Crossing, 5-1 Oat Couture, Bassenhally, 6-1 Springhill Quay, 10-1 Le Denstan, 12-1 Twin Falls, 16-1 others.

2.10 COLIN MACANDREW MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs: £2,700: 3m 3f) (8)

1 1215 SCRABO VIEW 9 (B,F,G,S) P Beaumont 8-12-7 ... Mr S Swiers
2 343- ROYAL SAXON 385 (F,G,S) P Bowen 10-12-6 Mr R Thornton (5)
3 55-4 SPARROW HALL 14 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-12-3 Mr C Mulhall (7)
4 P116 BLAZING DAWN 9 (CD,F,G,S) J Hubbuck 9-12-3 Miss P Robson (5)
5 41-P HURRICANE ANDREW 14 (F,G,S) J Moore 8-11-13 Mr N Wilson (5)
6 02U0 OFF THE BRU 12 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-11-12 Mr M Bradburne (7)
7 5-0P GALA WATER 9 (F,S) T Dun 10-11-11 ... Mr R Hale (5)
8 4P-3 LENTHALL PRINCESS 20 (S) J Needham 10-11-5 Miss P Jones (5)

11-4 Sparrow Hall, 7-2 Scrabo View, 4-1 Royal Saxon, 9-2 Blazing Dawn, 8-1 Lenthall Princess, 10-1 Hurricane Andrew, 14-1 others.

2.40 WASHINGTON HOSPITAL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,679: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 0-00 SISTER ROSZA 108 (D,S) Mrs S Lamyman 8-11-11 . A Dobbin
2 1U-1 BRIAR'S DELIGHT 19 (V,F,G,S) R Allan 8-11-10 ... L Wyer
3 23U2 VAL DE RAMA 9 (C,F,G) D Smith 7-11-4 ... P Niven
4 2334 REVE DE VALSE 25 (F,G,S) R Johnson 9-11-0 ... K Johnson
5 312F CIRCULATION 9 (V,CD,F,G,S) D McCain 10-10-0 .. B Harding
6 -P44 MASTER SALESMAN 9 (D,F,G) Mrs V Ward 13-10-0 N Williamson

11-8 Briar's Delight, 9-4 Val de Rama, 9-2 Circulation, 7-1 Reve de Valse, 16-1 Sister Rosza, Master Salesman.

3.10 L C L PILS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,355: 3m 3f 110yd) (14)

1 0125 ARRANGE A GAME 5 (F) Miss J Bower 9-11-3 .. S Taylor (5)
2 41-U SWANBISTER 10 (BF,G,S) L Lungo 6-11-3 ... M Foster
3 1243 SMART APPROACH 9 (BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12 P Niven
4 P CLONROCHE LUCKY 40 J Wade 6-10-10 ... K Jones
5 2342 COPPER COIL 7 W Turner 6-10-10 ... J Power (7)
6 F- KNOCKBRIDE 194 F Murphy 7-10-10 ... M Dwyer
7 5 LA CHANCE 12 Mrs H Walton 6-10-10 ... Mr A Walton
8 5-P5 RUBER 10 (F,G,S) R Thomson 9-10-10 ... B Storey
9 20/ WOODSTOCK LODGE 675 V Thompson 8-10-10 Mr M Thompson
10 0- HADAWAY LAD 208 H Johnson 4-10-9 ... N Williamson
11 5R-5 MENSHAAR 10 L Lungo 4-10-9 ... M Dwyer
12 P DEAR JEAN 9 (S) M Sowersby 6-10-5 ... D Parker
13 -433 ONE MORE DIME 9 J Needham 6-10-5 .. Mr R Thornton (5)
14 0-44 OUR RAINBOW 13 Mrs P Sly 4-10-4 ... R Marley

7-4 Swanbister, 7-2 Copper Coil, 6-1 Smart Approach, 8-1 Knockbride, 10-1 Menshaar, 14-1 Our Rainbow, Hadaway Lad, 16-1 others.

3.40 SEDGEFIELD PADDOCK BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,215: 2m 1f) (6)

1 2-64 SHINING EDGE 17 (F,G) T Easterby 4-11-10 ... L Wyer
2 3330 EDEN DANCER 19 (BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-7 ... P Niven
3 F-40 UNITED FRONT 8 (D,S) J Neville 4-11-0 ... N Williamson
4 20- TIRMIZI 180 (S) Mrs A Swinbank 5-10-13 ... J Supple
5 2224 NONIOS 19 (F) G Moore 5-10-13 ... J Callaghan
6 P35P COURT JOKER 10 H Alexander 4-10-0 ... B Storey

15-8 Shining Edge, 3-1 Eden Dancer, 9-2 United Front, 5-1 Nonios, 7-1 Tirmizi, 14-1 Court Joker

YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Haydock Park

Going: good

1.10 (2m hdle) 1, MARELLO (P Niven, 2-1); 2, Queen Of Spades (C Llewellyn, 1-2 fav); 3, Anglesey Sea View (T Kent, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 20 Bridled Tern (f), 25 Prussian Eagle, 33 Cliburnel News (4th), 66 Meconette, Miss Mont (6th), Promise To Try, Scally Hacks (5th), Sloe Brandy (f). 11 ran. 2¼l, 28l, 16l, 28l, 6l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £1.30. Trio: £2.50. CSF: £3.37.

1.40 (2m hdle) 1, SAINT CIEL (R Supple, 11-8 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Circus Line (M Dwyer, 7-2); 3, Desert Fighter (P Niven, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Holders Hill (f), 10 Eurotwist (5th), 14 Innocent George (6th), 25 Nashville Star (4th). 7 ran. 1¾l, 2l, 2½l, 1¼l, nk. F Jordan at Leominster. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.10. DF: £2.90. CSF: £6.22.

2.10 (3m ch) 1, UNGUIDED MISSILE (R Dunwoody, 10-11 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Couldnt Be Better (G Bradley, 11-4); 3, Gales Cavalier (M Dwyer, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 500 Quixall Crossett (4th). 4 ran. NR: Suny Bay. 4l, 20l, dist. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £1.70. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.53.

2.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, TULLYMURRY TOFF (E Callaghan, 3-1); 2, Mytton's Choice (Mr R Thornton, 3-1); 3, Turnpole (P Niven, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Palosanto (5th), 11 Mr Bureaucrat (4th). 5 ran. 3½l, 3l, 16l, 12l. J Jefferson at Malton. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £1.80. DF: £5.00. CSF: £11.29. Little Gunner (10-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies, deduction 5p in pound.

3.10 (2m ch) 1, THUMBS UP (R Dunwoody, 13-8 fav); 2, Spanish Light (A Dobbin, 11-4); 3, Rebel King (S Taylor, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Potato Man (4th), 25 Monaughty Man (ro). 5 ran. 7l, 11l, dist. G McCourt at Wantage. Tote: £2.50; £1.20, £2.30. DF: £3.40. CSF: £6.33.

3.40 (2m 7f 110yd hdle) 1, HALLE DERRING (C Llewellyn, 8-13 fav); 2, Desert Force (G Bradley, 4-1); 3, Country Store (S Curran, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Flat Top (4th). 4 ran. NR: Better Bythe Glass. 4l, 20l, 9l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote: £1.80. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.24.

Placepot: £9.20. Quadpot: £9.50.

Kempton Park

Going: good to soft

12.50 (2m hdle) 1, CANARY FALCON (N Williamson, 13-2); 2, Sallep (T Dascombe, 7-1); 3, Ragamuffin Romeo (D J Kavanagh, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Nothing Doing, 13-2 Shift Again (5th), 8 Bella Sedona (6th), 9 Red Light, 11 Prime Of Life (4th), 14 All Over Red Rover (ur). 9 ran. 2½l, 3l, ½l, 2l, 25l. R O'Sullivan at Whitcombe. Tote: £9.50; £2.20, £2.20, £1.40. DF: £18.50. Trio: £31.80. CSF: £44.31. Tricast: £239.94.

1.20 (2m ch) 1, MULLIGAN (A Maguire, 4-6 fav); 2, Wilde Music (D Gallagher, 12-1); 3, Feel The Power (C O'Dwyer, 6-4). ALSO RAN: 50 Marksman Sparks (4th). 4 ran. 11l, 8l, 18l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £1.40. DF: £2.80. CSF: £8.88.

1.50 (2m hdle) 1, NOT FOR TURNING (J Osborne, 3-1 fav); 2, Royal Event (A Maguire, 7-1); 3, Halona (D Gallagher, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Strong Paladin (6th), 8 Line Of Conquest, 10 Sir Dante, 12 Far Springs (4th), Trampolin, 14 Red Tel, 16 Shannon Lad, 20 My Shenandoah, 33 Bay Fair (5th), Toluk (pu); 66 Derring Jack (f), Mr Hamp, Physical Fun. 16 ran. Hd, 3l, 4l, 3½l, ½l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £4.70; £2.40, £2.80, £2.30. DF: £25.70. Trio: £37.90. CSF: £24.77.

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, TRYING AGAIN (J Osborne, 15-8 fav); 2, Old Bridge (N Williamson, 7-2); 3, Lackendara (B Fenton, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Suny Bay (5th), Super Tactics (4th), 7 Wise Approach (f), 20 Bo Knows Best (f). 7 ran. 7l, 4l, 22l, 5l. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £2.40. DF: £5.50. CSF: £8.45.

2.50 (2m 5f hdle) 1, TIM (J Osborne, 15-2); 2, High Grade (N Williamson, 8-1); 3, The Toiseach (P Hide, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 8-11 fav Chaprassi (4th), 20 Welshman (5th). 5 ran. 5l, 2l, 9l, dist. J Jenkins at Royston. Tote: £8.50; £2.00, £3.90. DF: £12.70. CSF: £48.49.

3.20 (3m ch) 1†, BERUDE NOT TO (J Osborne, 7-4) 1†, FINE THYNE (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4 fav); 3, Apple John (P Henley, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Ourownfellow (4th). 4 ran. Dd-ht, dist, dist. O Sherwood, Mrs A Perrett at Upper Lambourn, Pulborough. Tote: Fine Thyne, £1.20, Berude Not To, £1.10. DF: £1.70. CSF: Fine Thyne, Berude Not To, £2.19; Berude Not To, Fine Thyne, £2.32.

3.50 (2m flat race) 1, QUINI EAGLE (A P McCoy, 11-4 fav); 2, Jack Gallagher (M Richards, 12-1); 3, Shekels (M Berry, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Stormyfairweather (6th), 5 Lively Encounter, 6 Fiddler's Leap, Quick Bowler, 7 Sidanora, 12 Feebee Five, 14 Stanmore (5th), 16 Military Law (4th), Sou Sou Westerly, 20 Normandy Duke, 25 Charlie Banker, 33 Denys, Prerogative, Jackho, Mike's Music, Persian Sunset, Private Memories, Spring Blade. 20 ran. 1¾l, 6l, ½l, 2l, 4l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £4.10; £2.00, £5.90, £24.00. DF: £40.40. Trio: not won (pool of £346.26 carried forward to 2.00 at Wincanton today). CSF: £46.47.

Placepot: £61.20. Quadpot: £21.90.

Hereford

Going: good to soft

1.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Crown And Cushion (P Holley, 100-1); 2, Siberian Mystic (10-1); 3, Warning Reef (5-1). Fursan 8-11 fav. 16 ran. 10l, dist. T Greathead. Tote: £138.40; £16.10, £2.60, £1.70. DF: £355.40. Trio: £121.80 (part won; pool of £137.34 carried forward to 2.00 at Wincanton today). CSF: £824.25.

1.30 (2m 3f ch) 1, Poppets Pet (Mr A Balding, 11-1); 2, Prudent Peggy (10-1); 3, Wayuphill (4-1 jt-fav). Northern Optimist 4-1 jt-fav. 13 ran. 1¾l, 7l. J Mullins. Tote: £16.00; £5.50, £2.40, £1.70. DF: £55.60. Trio: £128.50 (part won; pool of £92.36 carried forward to 2.00 at Wincanton today). CSF: £113.89. Tricast: £485.56.

2.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Glowing Path (J Harris, 3-1); 2, Lawnswood Junior (7-2); 3, Scalp 'em (14-1). Alice's Mirror 6-4 fav. 8 ran. 13l, 1½l. R Hodges. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £1.10, £2.50. DF: £17.00. CSF: £14.18. Tricast: £119.07. No bid.

2.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Don Du Cadran (A Thornton, 6-1); 2, Mount Serrath (8-1); 3, Cardinal Rule (25-1). What's Your Story 7-4 fav. 11 ran. 7l, 25l. T Forster. Tote: £7.70; £1.80, £2.90, £8.90. DF: £57.60. Trio: £110.20 (part won; pool of £141.31 carried forward to 2.00 at Wincanton today). CSF: £52.44.

3.00 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Lets Be Frank (R Johnson, 2-1 fav); 2, Raven's Roost (7-1); 3, Clod Hopper (10-1). 15 ran. 9l, 2l. N Chance. Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £2.40, £2.60. DF: £10.40. Trio: £28.50. CSF: £17.88. Tricast: £117.44.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Scottish Bambi (A Thornton, 7-4 fav); 2, Poucher (5-1); 3, Northern Singer (9-1). 12 ran. NR: Nordic Valley. 10l, 12l. P Webber. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £1.40, £4.30. DF: £9.40. Trio: £52.90. CSF: £12.81. Tricast: £62.99.

4.00 (2m 1f flat race) 1, Melstock Meggie (G Hogan, 8-1); 2, Lovely Rascal (9-4 fav); 3, Kosheen (9-2). 13 ran. 2l, 1½l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £7.40; £2.00, £1.20, £2.70. DF: £12.60. Trio: £33.80. CSF: £28.49.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,287.75 carried forward to Warwick today).

Placepot: £487.70. Quadpot: £28.80.

Return to action

LARGE ACTION, the Oliver Sherwood-trained gelding, will return from a long lay-off in tomorrow's Coopers & Lybrand Hurdle at Ascot. He has not run since winning the same race 12 months ago. Ladbrokes make Large Action 12-1 third favourite for the Champion Hurdle.

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RUGBY LEAGUE: CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP LAUNCHED IN LONDON AND SYDNEY AT CENTRE OF AMBITIOUS GAME-PLAN

New league combines best of both worlds

By Christopher Irvine

THE Super League, finally free of all legal shackles, presented a bold future for the sport yesterday in the shape of a 22-team world club championship next year. Moreover, it is hoped that the threat of players moving to rugby union can be removed by a reshaped ten-month season.

In separate launches in Leeds and Sydney yesterday, details of the global vision were filled in after a year on hold. While league has been stuck in the starting blocks, union has seized the initiative in wealth and importation of several leading players from the other code for part of the winter.

The crowded rugby league calendar apparently leaves no room for the new dual-code professional, or the joint-owned players mooted this week by Wigan and Wasps. For players now making a living from both sports it will probably mean a straightforward choice.

"I would be amazed if, with the programme we have, that a player wouldn't want to lie on a beach somewhere," Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, said. "I hope it would reduce the desire of someone to play union ... but players do like money."

A championship featuring the 12 European and ten Australasian Super League clubs is an exciting and progressive venture. No other club competition in sport embraces the trans-hemisphere principle. Suddenly, rugby league's horizons broaden from the M62 to points 12,000 miles southeast.

Within the domestic Super League, which is starting a fortnight earlier than last season, on March 15, two three-week breaks are built in for 60 pool matches. These will take place simultaneously on both continents. Teams that travel to the southern hemisphere for their first three games, in June, will be at home for the next three in July and August.

If the launch yesterday is an indication, logistical problems are just starting. The fixture list had to be redrafted at the last minute because some Australian grounds were unavailable. On the first three weekends, St Helens, the Super League champions, are at home to Auckland Warriors, Cronulla Sharks and Penrith Panthers, while Wigan are at Canterbury Bulldogs, Brisbane Broncos and Canberra Raiders.

Kind words at the Leeds launch about English clubs by Laurie Daley, the likely captain of Australia for their British tour next November, were put into perspective by Denis Betts, the Great Britain and Auckland forward. "I am sure that Wigan, St Helens and Bradford can on their day knock off a top Australian side. Whether they can do it consistently is another thing. For weaker sides you're looking at defeat by 50 points, until standards can be raised," he said.

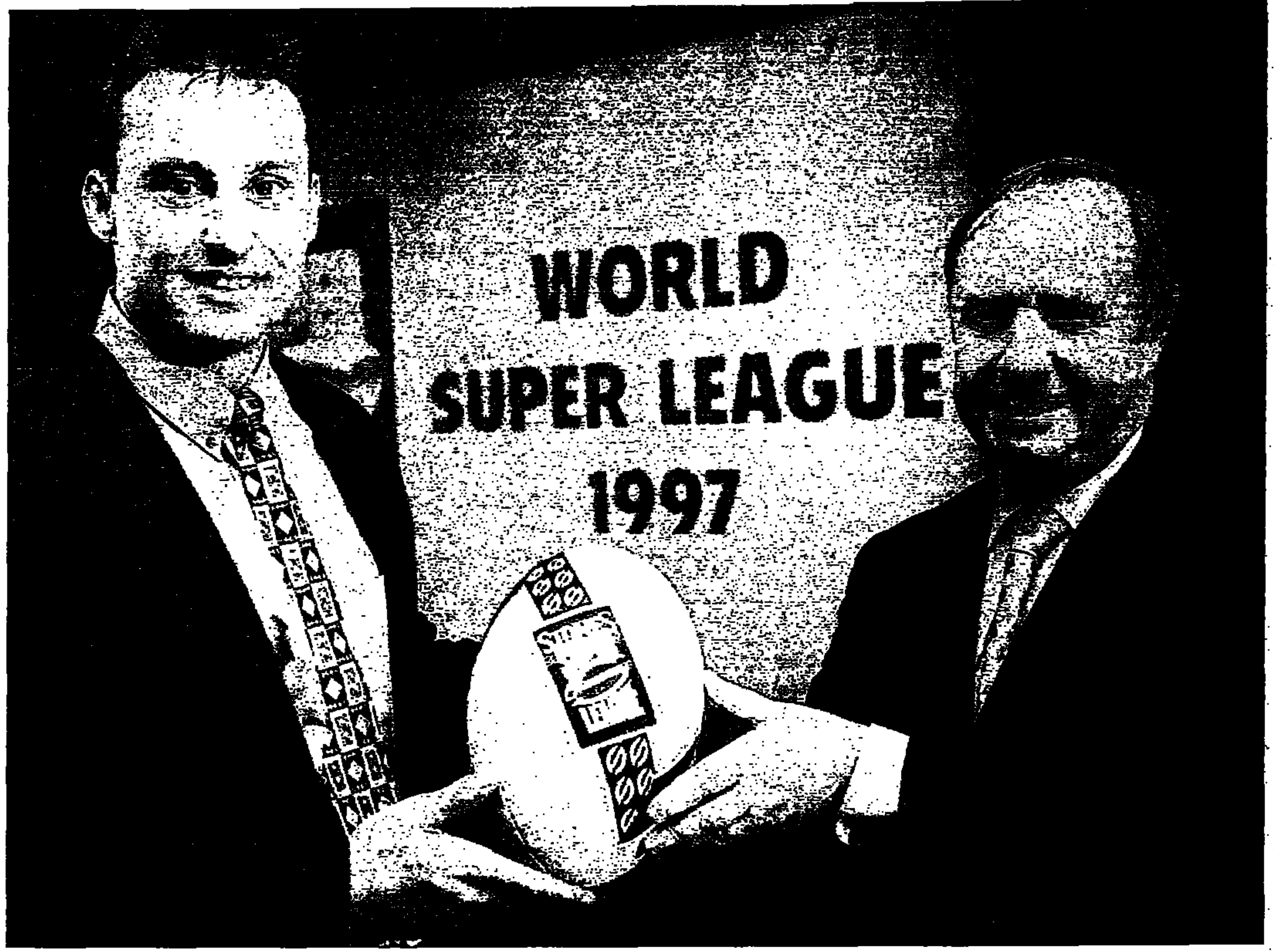
Given the potential for embarrassment, there is a contrivance to the competition's early stages. By an unwieldy system of qualification, Europe is guaranteed four quarter-finalists. Thus a side can lose most of its pool matches and still get a slice of the £1 million prize-money on offer from the last-eight knockout stage.

Under the new marketing umbrella of Rugby League (Europe), the 12 Super League clubs are gradually getting their act together. There is the incentive of being able to keep all home gate receipts. Travel and accommodation costs are being borne in an overall £3.5 million package by the Super League backers, The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

Matches pitting two capital cities against each other, between London Broncos and Canberra Raiders, fulfil Super League's global agenda, yet the essentially parochial nature of the British game is far from being overcome. For all its aspiring junior players, London is still a team of Australian imports; Cardiff, Glasgow and Bristol remain dots on the map and Paris Saint-Germain is a propped-up token European representative.

In tones different from the expansionist talk of a year ago, Lindsay said: "Everything has been changing, in rugby union particularly, and our clubs need to stabilise. With the advent of this action-packed calendar, there is no need for pressure to create new teams."

ROSS PARRY



Daley, left, the Canberra Raiders captain, joins Lindsay at the launch in Leeds of the Super League's vision for a global game

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

EUROPE: Pool A: St Helens, Wigan Warriors, Bradford Bulls, London Broncos, Warrington Wolves, Halifax Blue Sox. Pool B: Sheffield Eagles, Oldham Bears, Castleford Tigers, Leeds, Paris Saint-Germain, Salford Reds.

AUSTRALASIA: Pool A: Brisbane Broncos, Cronulla Sharks, Canberra Raiders, Auckland Warriors, Canterbury Bulldogs, Penrith Panthers. Pool B: Adelaide Rams, Perth Western Reds, North Queensland Cowboys, Hunter Mariners.

DETAILS: The composition of the pools is based on the teams' finishing order from last season. In the two A pools, the European and Australasian teams form separate leagues but play one another in three home and three away matches. The top three teams from Europe and top three teams from Australasia qualify for the quarter-finals. In the two B pools, European and Australasian teams form separate league tables, but only the winner of the Australasian table automatically qualifies for the quarter-finals. The last quarter-final place will be decided by a European play-off between the winner of Pool B and the fourth-placed team in Pool A.

DATES (all 1997): Pool matches: June 6 to 8, 13 to 15, 20 to 22; July 18 to 20, 25 to 27; August 1 to 3. Quarter-finals: September 26 to 28. Semi-finals: October 4. Final: October 11.

RUGBY UNION

London's early promise stifled

London Counties	20
Argentina XV	63

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THERE have been some great divisional days at Twickenham and yesterday, in a masochistic sort of way, was one of them. Forget epics of yesteryear — against the 1951 South Africans, the 1988 Australians, the 54,000 who turned up to watch London play the 1993 New Zealanders — the 22 players who wore London's colours in front of a paltry 1,000 people did so with as much pride as any of them.

The motley collection of students, teachers and the odd electrician even had the temerity to lead one of the world's significant rugby-playing nations for much of the first half before subsiding as weight and pace told.

Only on Friday did London know that politics would keep a swathe of first and second-division players out of the action. The match XV had only one training period.

What the Argentinians made of it they were far too polite to utter. By the time they had scored their eighth try, six of the players who appeared against South Africa in Buenos Aires last Saturday had taken the field against opposition drawn from the third division down to the seventh, where Nick Killick, once of England under-21 and Harlequins, now plays.

Jose-Luis Imhoff, their coach, made the point that they had only three days in which to prepare for the first international with South Africa earlier this month, but he will have been concerned that his side could have been pierced in midfield or outflanked with comparative ease. Had a couple of passes not been knocked on, Jeff Alexander's breaks might have created two further London tries. As it was, Alexander scored a try to go with that of Rushin, a student, in the first half.

Had Raymond kicked a close-range penalty, London would have led at the interval instead of trailing 14-13. Thereafter the Argentinians took charge, Bouza scoring three times from No 8 and Bartolucci running in from 85 metres to provide a distinct highlight as replacements, on both sides, came and went like confetti.

SCORERS: London Counties: Tries: Rushin, Alexander. Conversions: Raymond (2). Penalty goals: Raymond (2). Argentina XV: Tries: Bouza (3), Solari (2), Bartolucci, Travaglini, Jurado. Conversions: Quesada (7). Penalty goals: Quesada (3).

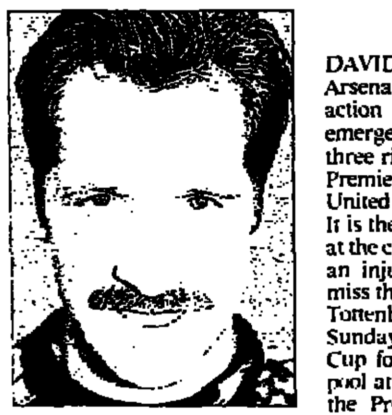
LONDON COUNTIES: H Rushin (Havant); A Pinnock (Havant), S Boydell (Havant), J Alexander (Esher), P Futter (Rosslyn Park); C Raymond (London Welsh), D Jones (Havant); D Rees (Havant), N Killick (Haywards Heath), J Davies (Esher, captain), P Brady (Esher), J Campbell-Lamerton (Rosslyn Park), J Fowler (Sale), M Reeve (Havant), C Brierley (Orrell). Brady replaced by N Oldham (Havant, 47min); Killick replaced by A Tucker (London Welsh, 59); Brierley replaced by B Pearce (Havant, 63), Rushin replaced by R Ashworth (Havant, 63); Campbell-Lamerton replaced by D Ruffelle (Rosslyn Park, 66); Rees replaced by J Cameron (Havant, 66); Jones replaced by J Coulson (Wasps, 75).

ARGENTINA XV: D Giannantonio; O Bartolucci, F Garcia, L Arbizu (captain), T Solari; G Quesada, C Barrea; R Grau, C Promanzio, M Scelzo, R Travaglini, J Simes, G Llanes, C Viel, P Bouza. Giannantonio replaced by E Jurado (47); Arbizu replaced by J-L Cilley (61); Bartolucci replaced by N Miranda (76); Grau replaced by O Hasan (76); Llanes replaced by I Lobbe (76).
Referee: G Simmonds (Wales)

☐ Niall Hogan, the Ireland captain and scrum half, is out of the international against Australia on Saturday because of an ankle injury. Steve McIvor, of Garryowen, is called up for his first full cap and Keith Wood, the hooker, takes over the captaincy.

FOOTBALL: ENGLAND GOALKEEPER FACES SPELL ON SIDELINES AFTER SUSTAINING INJURY IN PREMIERSHIP MATCH AT OLD TRAFFORD

Cracked ribs may deprive Arsenal of Seaman for key games



Seaman: derby doubt

By Russell Kempson

DAVID SEAMAN, the England and Arsenal goalkeeper, could be out of action for up to a month after it emerged yesterday that he cracked three ribs during the 1-0 FA Carling Premiership defeat by Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday. It is the third time in his seven years at the club that he has sustained such an injury. Seaman, 33, is likely to miss the north London derby against Tottenham Hotspur at Highbury on Sunday, as well as the Coca-Cola Cup fourth-round tie against Liverpool at Anfield next Wednesday and the Premiership trip to Newcastle United three days later.

Seaman could play with painkilling injections, as he did in the European Cup Winners' Cup final against Parma in Copenhagen in May 1994. He also wore a body protector against Auxerre in the quarter-finals of the same competition last year. Arsenal won both matches 1-0.

John Lukic, Arsenal's second-choice goalkeeper, has been placed on stand-by. He has played only two games this season, conceding five goals in the draws against Chelsea and Aston Villa.

Chelsea have played down reports that they are about to sign Georg Koch, 24, the Fortuna Dusseldorf goalkeeper. Gwyn Williams, Chelsea's administration officer, said yesterday: "He's one of many players we've looked at but that's all it is, just looking." Dmitri Kharine and Kevin Hitchcock, Chelsea's first and second-choice goalkeepers, are injured while Frode Grodas, the on-loan Norway international, is due to join Sturm Graz, of Austria, next month.

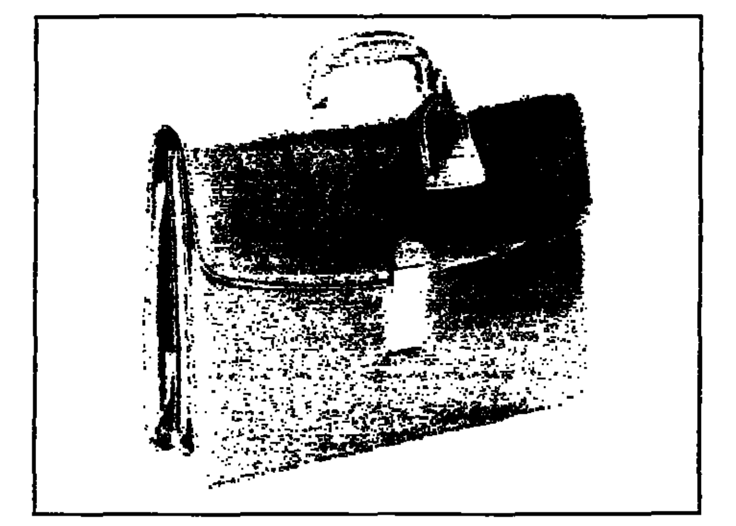
Tony Yeboah, the Ghana and Leeds United forward, moved closer to a return to first-team action when playing for 90 minutes and scoring in a practice match against Carlisle United yesterday. Yeboah, out with knee problems since March, said: "I need two or three reserve games, then I will be back in contention."

Bolton Wanderers, the Nationwide League first division leaders, have lodged an appeal against the sending-off of Jimmy Phillips, their defender, in the 3-1 defeat by Birmingham City at St Andrew's last week. Phillips was dismissed by Graham Pooley after an incident involving Paul Devlin, the Birmingham striker.

Devlin appeared to head-butt Phillips and, though Phillips was unhurt and did not feign injury or retaliate, Pooley showed the red card to both players. Phillips was incensed and had to be restrained by colleagues as he walked off the pitch. Pooley later confirmed that he had sent Phillips off for the same offence as Devlin.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, has studied a video of the match and written to the Football Association. He and Phillips, who has already received a three-match suspension for his alleged part in the incident, will be supported in their appeal by Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, and Devlin.

☐ The European Champions' League will be shown on terrestrial television until 2000. ITV yesterday completed an exclusive three-year agreement, worth an estimated £75 million, to show the competition. The deal will complete a £45 million-a-season package for ITV including the FA Cup, worth £15 million a season, and highlights of England internationals.



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ATHLETICS

BAF tuning in to new television contract

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THE pre-Christmas cash tills are ringing for athletics. The British Athletic Federation (BAF), which confirmed yesterday that it had agreed a kit deal worth a record £1 million a year, is thought to be on the point of announcing a new television contract with Channel 4. At the same time, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), and the two fastest men in the world, have been talking very big money.

A four-year deal between the BAF and Channel 4 is understood to have been struck and the sport will switch channels in 1997 after 12 years with ITV, which has been dissatisfied with the way the sport is run in Britain.

The new deal is presumed to be worth much less than the £5 million two-year contract with ITV, which is now at an end, but the guarantee of television coverage will improve the Federation's negotiating power with sponsors. The signing of the kit deal, with Reebok, is a formality, Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, said.

Indications in *The Times* last March that the IAAF planned to introduce a $100,000 (about £600,000) bonus for world records at the world championships in Athens next year gathered substance yesterday when a governing body source was quoted by Reuter as saying: "We have a sponsor who will put up to $100,000 for world records." Prize-money will be paid at the world championships for the first time next year.

At a press conference on Tuesday, it was confirmed that Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson, who set world records for the 100 and 200 metres respectively last summer, will meet in a $2 million challenge over 150 metres in Toronto on May 31, the winner taking $1.5 million.

SWIMMING

Dismissal of coach may prompt boycott

By Craig Lord

SWIMMING coaches across Britain were yesterday asked to decide whether to boycott Bristol City Council, which has dismissed Eric Henderson, the head of its swimming scheme.

Henderson, a former Scotland international, is claiming that he has been unfairly dismissed after 13 years, during which he has produced 12 internationals. He is appealing to the council against his dismissal and is being backed by the British Swimming Coaches Association (BSCA).

The BSCA yesterday sent out ballot forms to its members, asking them to vote on whether to boycott Bristol, given that the Amateur Swimming Association has backed moves for Clive Durran, a former development manager, to take temporary control of the Bristol scheme.

The BSCA form states: "If we as coaches are seen to allow another coach to cover the programme of a colleague when we feel he has been unfairly dismissed, then it gives the impression that we as an association are condoning the way our colleague has been treated."

A council spokesman said the BSCA was "balloting its members on unreliable information". He said he could not divulge details of Henderson's case.

TUESDAY'S LATE FOOTBALL RESULTS

UEFA CUP: Third round, first leg: FC Metz [illegible] United 1, FC Brugge (Bel) 2 Schalke 04 (Ger) 1, AS Monaco (Fr) 3 [illegible] 0, [illegible] (Swe) 0 [illegible] Internazionale (It) 5 [illegible] Bordeaux (Fr) 1 Karlsruhe [illegible] Feyenoord (Hol) 3

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: [illegible] Town 2 Swindon Town 2 Manchester City 0 Huddersfield Town 0 Oxford United 0 Bolton Wanderers 0. Postponed: [illegible] v Sheffield United. Second division: Bournemouth 2 [illegible] 1 Bristol Rovers 1 Burnley 2 [illegible] United 0 Gillingham 1 [illegible] 0 Chesterfield 3 Preston [illegible] Town 2 Stockport County 1 [illegible] Watford 1 Wycombe Wanderers 1. Postponed: Crewe v Bristol City, Notts County v Bury, Wrexham v [illegible]. Third division: [illegible] 2 Cambridge United 0 [illegible] United 1 Scunthorpe United 1 [illegible] 1 Exeter City 1 Doncaster Rovers 1 Northampton Town 2 Fulham 2 Barnet 0 Hereford United 1 Lincoln City 1 Swansea City 1 Brighton and Hove Albion 0. Postponed: Hartlepool v Cardiff, Leyton Orient v Wigan, Mansfield v Chester, Rochdale v Scarborough.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Partick Thistle 0 St Johnstone 4. Postponed: East Fife v Greenock Morton.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Spalding Cup: Second round: Bromsgrove Rovers 3 Northwich Victoria 1 (aet, 1-1 after 90min) Kettering Town 0 Farnborough Town 2, Rushden & Diamonds 1 Stevenage Borough 0

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Staines 0 Enfield 2. Second division: Ware 0 Wembley 4. Guardian Insurance cup: Second round: [illegible] T 1 Chertsey 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Bamber Bridge 1 [illegible] Borough 5 Barrow Ath 1 [illegible] 0 [illegible] 2 Warrington Town 0

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 0 King's Lynn 2. Southern division: Buckingham Town 3 Erith and Belvedere 0

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple Town 1 Torrington 2

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division Cup: Final: Stourport 0 Brierley Hill 1

FAI SHIELD: Final: Galway 2 Limerick 0 (aet, 0-0 after 90min).

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury 1 Harwich and Parkeston 3, Warboys 3 March 0 Watton 0 Wisbech 0

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 5 Mirrlees Blackstone 4, Eynesbury 1 Cogenhoe 2: Newport Pagnell 0 Potton 4: St Neots 2 Northampton Spencer 2 Stotfold 4 Kempston 1 Wellingborough 0 Spalding 1

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Trafford 3 Glossop North End 0

SCHOOLS MATCH: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Surrey 3 Kent 0

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TENNIS: GERMAN CROWD BOO LOSER IN ONE-SIDED BATTLE OF FORMER WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONS

Sampras humiliates lifeless Agassi

FROM DAVID MILLER IN HANOVER

A DISMAL year for Andre Agassi, by comparison with the standard of his own peaks, concluded with humiliation here yesterday at the world championship of the Association of Tennis Professionals. Troubled by a cold, unable or unwilling to run, he lost his opening round-robin match to Pete Sampras 6-2, 6-1, and was whistled and booed off court by a crowd of 15,000 who had paid a minimum of £70 a seat.

Agassi earned £50,000 merely for appearing as one of the eight top-ranked players. When realising the extent of his condition, as he must have done, he should have withdrawn, allowing Thomas Enqvist, ranked ninth, to replace him. His performance, whether or not he was unwell, whether or not Sampras hit a stream of blistering passing shots, as indeed he did, was an insult to the public, who justifiably felt cheated.

"I was feeling pretty weak, not fit to be playing well," Agassi, pale and despondent, admitted. He had felt unwell since before leaving Las Vegas, and did not venture to blame the crowd for their displeasure. "I felt worse than they did," he lamented. No excuse.

The imminence of crisis for the man ranked No 7 was apparent from the fourth game, in which Agassi had to save five break points in order to hold his service for 2-2. In the next five games, he took one point; in the next nine, only six. When trailing 5-0 in the second set, he served an ace to ironic cheers.

At 2-2 in the first set he had provided inelegant evidence of his cold, blowing his nose without recourse to a handkerchief, spraying the ATP logo at the back of the playing area, and then smudging the damp area with his foot. Absence of sympathy was unsurprising.

Agassi's conduct throughout the year, even allowing for his Olympic victory, has been incompatible with maintaining his eminence in the game. He has played too few tournaments — only two since his surprising elimination by Michael Chang in the US Open — and had predictably been in no shape for Paris or Wimbledon. His commercial sponsors must be alarmed about their investment.

Sampras considered that this was the best he had played in some while. "I was in a zone — it was one of those days when everything clicks," Sampras, who won all of his 19 first-service points, said. "I've had spurts of tennis like this, but not for an entire match." In truth, he had little to beat and can regard yesterday only as a warm-up for his group confrontations with Becker and Kafelnikov today and tomorrow.

RESULTS

ROUND ROBIN: White group: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-4, 6-4; Muster bt M Chang (US) 6-4, 6-3. Red group: P Sampras (US) bt A Agassi (US) 6-2, 6-1.

Agassi has maintained his ranking with three tournament victories this year — at Key Biscayne, where Ivanisevic withdrew from the final, Atlanta and Cincinnati. Yet he has lost the past three meetings with Sampras, all in straight sets this year. He last beat him in the 1995 Canadian Open.

The GreenSet surface should, in theory, have been marginally more helpful to Agassi's rally-controlled tactics. There has been debate during the first two days here about whether the court is fast or slow. It is designed by the American, Lee Frankel, formerly with Spalding, who created the company, with South African investment, in France in 1970.

Its most important characteristic is trueness of bounce and Michael Chang, when beaten by Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion, on the opening day, declared that it was "fair to all players". Gordon Forbes, the former South African Davis Cup player, who works with GreenSet, considers that the big services of Krajicek and Ivanisevic would have been aces on any surface.

The proof of its trueness was provided in the opening match yesterday between Chang and Thomas Muster. Chang lost for the second time, 6-4, 6-3, thereby putting him out of the running for the semi-finals, but it was a delightful encounter with both men artfully using the whole of the court.

Chang sometimes had trouble with his timing, though Muster was consistently striking the ball the more fiercely. Ungainly in appearance, he sometimes has the appearance of a squaddie tackling an assault course, but his accuracy and control of length are at times phenomenal.

"It was nice to play tennis," Muster said, with a touch of sarcasm, remembering how he had been well beaten by Krajicek on the first day. "It was nice to run, to play shots, to fight for balls, to get a chance. Yesterday it was completely different."

He conceded that Chang had not been as aggressive as usual, making many unforced errors. "I put him under a lot of pressure with my forehand," Muster said.

MICHAEL PROBST

Sampras hammers down a service during his straight-sets drubbing of Agassi

Ailing Seles forced to consider surgical solution

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN NEW YORK

THIS is a good time of year to be a physiotherapist here. The best and the richest players in the women's game have gathered at Madison Square Garden for the Chase championships and they have brought with them a year's worth of accumulated injuries. The winner's cheque will not necessarily go to the best player, rather to the last woman standing come the final on Sunday.

On Tuesday night, Monica Seles finally gave in to the shoulder injury that has troubled her since the Australian Open in January. Playing her first-round match against Kimiko Date, she called for the trainer after seven games and received treatment for a few minutes before deciding to continue. She could only manage to win one more point and, after a further two games, retired at 5-4 down.

She must decide whether to have surgery to repair the damage or endure another year of playing in fits and starts as the pain allows. Her dilemma lies in the long recovery time from such an operation — at best she would be out of action for three months, but it could be longer. Even if she went ahead with the surgery right away she would not be able to defend her Australian title, the one highlight of her difficult year.

Her father, Karolj, is rather more concerned with his daughter's well-being than with her tournament record, and on Tuesday he was frantically signalling from the courtside for her to withdraw as soon as she called for the trainer. He is of the opinion that Seles will never regain her position as the undisputed world No 1 because she cannot shake off the emotional traumas of the stabbing incident in 1993. By comparison, a torn shoulder muscle is just a problem waiting to be solved.

"Surgery is a tough decision to make because of the long lay-off," Monica Seles said. "I don't want to jump into it too quick. We thought about it after the US Open but with what's been happening this year it's been tough, not just physically but mentally too."

So far, Seles has been lucky. Since she came back to the WTA Tour her ranking has been protected and only recently has she lost her automatic right to the joint No 1 position with Steffi Graf. Now, with a new ranking system coming in next year to encourage the top players to play more tournaments, her place in the world order will suffer if she is out for three months. "I think we need more top players playing each other more often," she said, "but the demands on you are really tough. There is never time to enjoy the victories or to learn from the losses."

As for Graf, she is battling on through her own injury problems. She is a good person to know should you fall ill away from home and she is quite serious when she says she has the private telephone numbers of the top physicians in any city in the world. But in what has been a trying year, nothing seems to have focused her mind more than the threat of losing. On Tuesday she dismissed all thoughts of her chronic back injury and beat Karina Habsudova 6-1, 6-4.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Australia restore Little on the wing

AUSTRALIA'S rugby union team to play Ireland at Lansdowne Road on Saturday shows six changes, two positional, from the side that defeated Scotland at Murrayfield (Karl Johnston writes). Jason Little, recovered from injury, is at right wing, as Tim Horan, who played there against Scotland, reverts to centre, to the exclusion of Pat Howard. George Gregan is preferred at scrum half.

Dan Crowley, who arrived in Ireland on Tuesday to replace the injured Richard Harry, takes over at loose-head prop. Michael Brial comes in at No 8, while Daniel Manu moves from that position to blind-side flanker. David Campese has been omitted again.

AUSTRALIA: M Burke (New South Wales), J Little (Queensland), D Herbert (Queensland), T Horan (Queensland), J Roff (Australian Capital Territory); D Knox (ACT), G Gregan (ACT), D Crowley (Queensland), M Foley (Queensland), A Blades (NSW), D Manu (NSW), W Waugh (NSW), J Eales (Queensland, captain), D Wilson (Queensland), M Brial (NSW). Replacements: P Howard (ACT), S Payne (NSW), A N Other, A Heath (NSW), M Caputo (ACT), A N Other

Britons progress

SQUASH: Britain's two highest-ranked men progressed to the semi-finals of the world open championship in Karachi yesterday. Peter Nicol, from Inverurie, beat Craig Rowland, of Australia, and will face Jansher Khan, the defending champion from Pakistan. Chris Walker, from Colchester, outplayed another Australian, Brett Martin. Walker will play Rodney Ayles, also of Australia.

Brundle unhurt in crash

MOTOR SPORT: Martin Brundle, right, crashed during a practice run for the Network Q/RAC Rally yesterday, damaging his Ford Escort. The former Formula One driver was not hurt, but he and his co-driver, Roger Freeman, were forced to continue in a different car. Brundle, preparing for his rally debut this weekend, was on a reconnaissance drive of one of the Welsh stages when he slid off an icy track and down a bank.

Burden on course

TENPIN BOWLING: Gemma Burden, from Weston-super-Mare, who is defending her women's singles title, lies in fifth place after play yesterday in the World Cup in Belfast. Burden, 18, is still on course to qualify for the quarter-finals. Although there are players from 71 countries competing, it is expected that the United Kingdom's other representatives will all progress to the round-robin stage.

Parlier hits trouble

SAILING: Yves Parlier, leader in the Vendée Globe non-stop single-handed round-the-world race, may be forced to retire after the forestay and jib furler on his yacht *Aquitaine Innovations* broke in brisk southeast trades.

☐ In Rio de Janeiro, the BT Global Challenge fleet yesterday set sail on leg two of the round-the-world race to Wellington in New Zealand, more than 7,000 miles away.

Gunn downs Howell

REAL TENNIS: Ruaraidh Gunn, the No 8 seed, beat Jonathan Howell, the Oratory School head professional, 6-4, 6-5, 2-6, 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals of the British Land British open championship at the Queen's Club yesterday. Gunn, 23, one of the new breed of sponsored tournament professionals, raised his game on the big points and at 5-5 in the fourth set kept his nerve to see off his mentor.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

SHEFFIELD: International match: China bt England 3-2 (England names first): Men's singles: P Knowles lost to Ji Xinping 12-15, 13-15. Men's doubles: C Hunt and N Robertson bt Zhang Jun and Min Zhunyu 15-13, 18-17. Women's singles: T Woodward lost to Liu Lu Fang 11-1, 11-3. Women's doubles: J Goode and G Gowers lost to Qian Hong and Liu Lu 15-7, 15-8. Mixed doubles: Hunt and J Wright bt Chen Wei and Liu Zhang 15-5, 15-3. Six-match series finished 3-3

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 98 Seattle 106; Cleveland 73 Atlanta 63. New York 92 Orlando 88. Houston 122 Minnesota 83; Milwaukee 100 Dallas 97; Denver 86 Miami 104; Golden State 109 LA Lakers 112

EUROPEAN CUP: Group H: Ankara (Tur) 79 London Towers 61

CYCLING

GHENT SIX-DAY RACE: Leading positions after first day: 1, B Risi and K Betschart (Switz) 115pts; 2, A Kappes and C Wolf (Ger) 76; 3, S Martinello and M Villa (It) 73; 4, M Gilmore (Aus) and J Pril Storm (Den) 64; 5, E de Wilde (Bel) and A Baffi (It) 62; 6, J Veggerby and J Madsen (Den) 71

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Ottawa 1 New Jersey 2; Pittsburgh 4 St Louis 2; Tampa Bay 3 Los Angeles 0; Toronto 4 Buffalo 3; Vancouver 2 Dallas 0

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Manchester Storm 0 Lulea (Swe) 11

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Land British Open (GB unless stated): Second round: M Happell (Aus) bt D Jones 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, R Gunn bt J Howell 6-4, 6-5, 2-6, 6-5, F Filippelli (Aus) bt P Brake 6-3, 6-0, 6-3, J Snow bt N Pendrigh 6-1, 6-0, 6-0

RUGBY UNION

Counties of Origin Series

London Counties 20 Argentina XV 63

London Counties: Tries: Alexander, [illegible]. Cons: Raymond 2. Pens: Raymond 2. Argentina XV: Tries: Bartolucci, Bouza 3, Jurado, Solari 2, Travaglini. Cons: Quesada 7. Pens: Quesada 3.

(at Twickenham)

Under-21 match

Leinster 29 N Zealand News 3

Leinster: Tries: Hackett, Doggett, Farrell, Gannon. Cons: Farrell 3. Pen: Farrell. New Zealand News: Pen: Howard.

(at Donnybrook)

CLUB MATCH: Gloucester 33 Royal Air Force 7

SNOOKER

PRESTON: United Kingdom championship: Second round (England unless stated): J Higgins (Scot) bt M Campbell (Scot) 9-5, A Robidoux (Can) bt S Lee 9-6; T Murphy (N Ire) bt M Price 9-6, N Bond bt J Swail (N Ire) 9-6; S Hendry (Scot) bt R Milkins 9-5, J Johnson bt T Pichit (Thai) 9-6; P Hunter bt J Wattana (Thai) 9-5, B Snaddon (Scot) bt R Lawler 9-7. A McManus (Scot) leads G Wilkinson 5-3; K Broughton level with C Small (Scot) 4-4, M Williams (Wales) leads Y Merchant (India) 7-1, M Clark leads J Parrott 5-3; D Gray level with A Hamilton 4-4.

SQUASH

KARACHI: World Open: Second round: S Parke (Eng) bt J Bonetat (Fr) 15-12, 12-15, 15-10, 17-16, B Martin (Aus) bt S Frenz (Ger) 15-12, 15-9, 15-13. Quarter-finals: C Walker (Eng) bt Martin 15-10, 12-15, 15-9, 15-13; P Nicol (Scot) bt C Rowland (Aus) 15-13, 15-6, 15-9; Jansher Khan (Pak) bt Parke 15-3, 15-4, 15-8; R Eyles (Aus) bt Zubair Jahan Khan (Pak) 15-17, 13-15, 17-15, 15-7, 15-6

TENNIS

NEW YORK: Women's Tennis Association world championship: First round: K Date (Japan) bt M Seles (US) 5-4, ret; S Graf (Ger) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-4

TENPIN BOWLING

CASTLEREAGH, Northern Ireland: World Cup: Leading positions (after 24 games) Men: 1, P Nepomuceno (Phil) 5,141pts; 2, G Bulegato (It) 5,117; 3, S Marzooqi (UAE) 5,087. Women: 1, S Zulkifli (Malay) 5,057; 2, C Honeychurch (Aus) 5,026; 3, G Burden (Eng) 4,910.

VOLLEYBALL

OSAKA, Japan: Men's world super challenge: Holland bt South Korea 15-5, 15-4, 15-6; Italy bt Yugoslavia 15-9, 15-17, 15-13, 15-8; China bt Japan 4-15, 15-8, 15-9, 7-15, 15-13

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance. 24pts £407.70. 23 £17.05. 22 £1.25. Half-time result £83,333.35. Four draws £5.00. Ten homes £611.35 (paid on nine). Five aways £948.50

VERNONS: Treble chance. 24pts £120.20. 23pts £7.95 (two dividends only). Super Shots £22.35 (paid on two scorers in correct order). Premier 10 £216.00 (paid on eight).

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £33.10. 23 £2.20. Four aways £129.80. 8 homes £247.40. Five draws £6.00. Super 7 £212.00. Lucky numbers 24, 32, 25, 33, 22, 12.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Nottingham Forest (7.0). Second division: Hull v Rotherham (7.0). Stockport v Barnsley (6.45).

FA YOUTH CUP: First-round replay: Bournemouth v Yeovil.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire (Alfreton FC, 7.15). English Knowles Cup: Essex v Kent (Gloucester Bowl, 7.30). Oxford United Cup: Vale of White Horse v Mid Oxon (Abingdon). Welsh Schools Glyncoed Shield: Dyfed v Cardiff (Llanelli FC, 7.0).

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Scottish Open (Glasgow).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Sheffield (7.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Bracknell v Nottingham (8.0); Cardiff v Basingstoke (7.0).

REAL TENNIS: British Open (Queen's Club).

SNOOKER: UK championship (Preston)

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The defence's second trump trick disappeared in an unusual way on this hand, from the trials for this year's England team.

Dealer West *Game all* *IMPs*

North:
♠ K 6 5
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ A J 5 3
♣ 6 5

West:
♠ J 9 4
♥ Q 10 9 8
♦ 10 7 4 2
♣ K 2

East:
♠ A 10
♥ 7 5
♦ K 9 8
♣ Q J 9 8 7 4

South:
♠ Q 8 7 3 2
♥ A K 3
♦ Q 6
♣ A 10 3

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	2 C (1)	2 S
Pass	3 S	All Pass	

Contract: Three Spades by South. Lead: king of clubs

(1) Natural — i.e. showing an opening bid with clubs the longest suit.

This was the auction with Senior South and myself North. Senior ducked the king of clubs, took the second club and played a third club. On this West misguidedly ruffed in with the nine of spades.

Senior overruffed and led a low spade from dummy. East could still have retrieved the position by rising with the ace of spades and leading another club, which would promote a trump trick for West and still leave the defence able to collect a red-suit trick in the endgame. But East played low on the spade, and so when Senior won the queen he could return a second spade, crashing the defence's trumps. Now he won the heart return in hand and cleared hearts, so he emerged with ten tricks.

At the other table the stakes were higher — South was in Four Spades. Unfortunately for our team the defence went exactly the same way.

Should West ruff in on the third club? Where it gains is if the declarer has four clubs and better trumps — ruffing prevents the declarer from getting more than one club ruff, as West can then ruff the next one. I suppose it depends on your signalling methods — if West knows East has six clubs, he should not ruff the third club. Then he will make a trump trick by force whenever his partner has the ace.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TARTAREAN
a. With yellow teeth
b. Infernal
c. Bidding farewell

TUTRESS
a. A lady tutor
b. A battlement embrasure
c. A widow's peak

THRASONIC
a. Boastful
b. Brave
c. Faster than sound

UPAS
a. Overhead
b. In step
c. A poison tree

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Brilliant sacrifices

Many experts regard Avro 1938, the tournament held in various cities in Holland, as the strongest in the history of chess. Indeed, the list of participants, that included Alekhine, Capablanca, Botvinnik and Euwe, held the world championship between them, broken only by slight intervals, from 1921 until 1963.

Although first prize was shared between Reuben Fine, the American grandmaster, and Paul Keres, the Estonian grandmaster, the accolade for the most brilliant game goes to Botvinnik's marvellous series of diversionary sacrifices against Capablanca. Botvinnik regarded this game as his own personal favourite, and expert opinion considers this the greatest single game of chess ever played. Not only are Botvinnik's sacrifices brilliant and original, he also had to see his way in the closing stages through a maze of complications in which one false step would have allowed the black queen to salvage a draw by perpetual check.

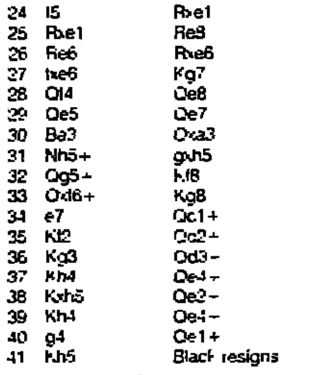
White: *Mikhail Botvinnik*
Black: Jose Capablanca

Avro 1938

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	e3	d5
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	bxc3	c5
7	cxd5	exd5
8	Bd3	0-0
9	Ne2	b6
10	0-0	Ba6
11	Bxa6	Nxa6
12	Bb2	Qd7
13	a4	Rfe8
14	Qd3	c4
15	Qc2	Nb8
16	Rae1	Nc6
17	Ng3	Na5
18	f3	Nb3
19	e4	Qxa4
20	e5	Nd7
21	Qf2	g6
22	f4	f5
23	exf6	Nxf6
24	f5	Rxe1
25	Rxe1	Re8
26	Re6	Rxe6
27	fxe6	Kg7
28	Qf4	Qe8
29	Qe5	Qe7
30	Ba3	Qxa3
31	Nh5+	gxh5
32	Qg5+	Kf8
33	Qxf6+	Kg8
34	e7	Qc1+
35	Kf2	Qc2+
36	Kg3	Qd3+
37	Kh4	Qe4+
38	Kxh5	Qe2+
39	Kh4	Qe4+
40	g4	Qe1+
41	Kh5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

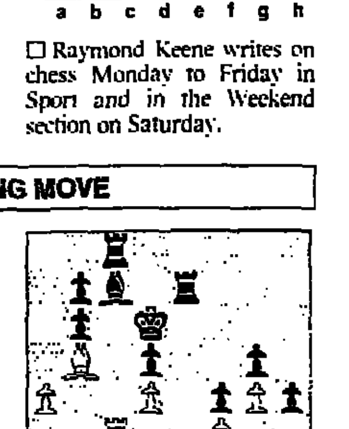


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Anon, Simultaneous Display 1944. Although Black is trapped in an uncomfortable pin on the c-file, he probably did not expect to be mated in short order. However, that is what happened. How did White continue?



Solution on page 50

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

LOWREY (UK) LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K D Goodman, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 15th November 1996. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated this 15th November 1996
K D GOODMAN, FCA Liquidator.

Monarty Limited
Registered Number: 2560916.
Trading Name: Pilgrim Frozen Foods.
Nature of Business: Frozen Food Distribution.
Trade Classification: 12.
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 14 November 1996.
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): Midland Bank plc
Type of Security: Fixed and Floating Charge.
Date of Security: 14 February 1991.
Name of persons appointed: I P Phillips and I A Manning both of BUCHLER PHILLIPS, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF. (Office Holder Nos: 6291 and 6477)

KIDDER FINANCING AND TRADING
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 1483143
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF KIDDER FINANCING AND TRADING

On 18 November 1996 the above named company was placed in Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse were appointed liquidators by the shareholders.

The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidator, at No. 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, by 24 December 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in this distribution.

All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.

Dated 20 November 1996.
A V Lomas
Joint Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
[illegible] LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 13th November 1996.
M.R.DORRINGTON, Liquidator.

INTERMEDIA ASSOCIATES LIMITED ALSO TRADING AS THE FRAME
The Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named Company will be held on 27th November 1996 at 11.00am at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of their debt to the offices of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, not later than 12 noon on 26th November 1996. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above. Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and that the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

By Order of the Board.
CHRISTOPHER DAVID SMITH, Director

DAVRO-TAYLOR LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 76276
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidator of the above company intends to make a distribution to the creditors within four months of Friday 20 December 1996. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the liquidator, Roger Smith at KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 20 December 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company.

Notice is also given that the intended distribution is a final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to the shareholders absolutely.

Note: the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

Dated: 14 November 1996.
Roger Smith - Liquidator.

To all whom it may concern

TAKE NOTICE That We, RUHON AZAD of 65 Malacca House, Ducket Street, London, E1, MOHAMMED MOSTOFA AHMED of 70, Whitehorse Lane, London E1 and MOHOMMED IQBAL of 39 Bengal House, Ducket Street, London, E1, having for the last six months carried on the trade or calling of Shopman, Proprietor and unemployed respectively intend to apply at the Licensing Sessions to be held at Thames Magistrates Court, 59, Bow Road, London, E3 on the 9th day of December 1996 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon for the grant to us of a New Justices' Licence authorising us to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption off the premises situate at 84, Whitehorse Lane, London, E1 a plan of which premises has been deposited with the Clerk to the Licensing Justices together with this notice.

Dated the 14th day of November 1996.

Signed T V EDWARDS (Authorised Agent on behalf of the Applicant)

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Alan Lee previews the Test series being billed as 'The Decider'

Warne's return shifts balance of power

To the relief of all Australia, and the profound regret of West Indies' batsmen, Shane Warne is fit to resume his phenomenal Test career here in Brisbane tomorrow. Only now, with the months of helpless uncertainty behind him, is Warne prepared to confess to what might have been, to reflect upon days of depression when he feared he might never bowl again.

The return of Warne is enough to make Australia favourites for this first match in a five-Test series portentously billed as "The Decider". Without his extraordinary talent, the odds would have been markedly different, as might the outcome. His case refutes the theory that one man cannot make a team — take away Warne and Australia are fallible.

Yesterday, relaxing with only a cigarette in his precious right hand, Warne related his low points during the six months since he submitted to surgery on a damaged joint on the ring finger crucial to his bowling.

"There were stages," he said slowly, "when I thought about what would happen if the finger never came right. What would I do? How would I get by? They weren't nice thoughts.

"It has actually recovered at just the speed the doctors told me it would, but it has seemed a long time and, naturally, it's been worrying. It was only last week, when I bowled 40 overs in the second innings of a [Sheffield] Shield game, that I felt, wow, this is what I want, I'm back."

Warne, 27, bowled in severe discomfort during the World Cup in March and has played no international cricket since. He had hoped to return for the short tour to India last month, but explains: "I didn't go because I feared I'd be letting my mates down." Without him, Australia lost the single Test and all of their one-day games, a chastening experience more easily forgotten with their virtuoso restored.

Having imposed severely on various bodily joints in the five years since his Test debut, Warne can have no long-term immunity from injury, but he is taking ample precautions. "I have ice and massage on my hand, forearm and shoulders every time I bowl and I put a brace on the finger each night," he said.

One precaution he rejected, however, was taking out insurance on that spinning finger. "My dad is in the business and he touted the idea round some companies two years ago," he said. "The ones willing to do it came up with a premium of $12,000 [about £5,700] a year. I told him it was far too much but, just recently, I've begun to wonder."

It is a measure of the advantage bestowed upon the Australians by Warne's recovery that the West Indian net practice yesterday was conspicuous by its absence of leg spinners. At the request of the Australian selectors, the Queensland club declined to provide any local clones of Warne to help the visitors. They must be wariest of him here, on the Gabba ground, where he has taken an astonishing 30 wickets at 10.4 runs apiece in only three Test matches.

> 'He has an astonishing 30 wickets here at 10.4 runs apiece'

"The pitches have been good for me," he said. "They generally turn towards the end, not far but quickly." Then, flicking back the dyed blond hair over the gold Nike earstud, the man they call "Hollywood" dismissed the theory that he might be negated by the West Indies' succession of left-handers.

"The lefties have an advantage if I'm bowling badly, that's for sure," he said. "But if I am bowling well, I enjoy them, because there is always some rough around their off stump and they have got to play at every ball. I've been mucking around in the nets with some different ideas to try against them — no secret new deliveries, just variations of angles, things like that."

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

Warne, in typically aggressive mode, is back to face West Indies after an operation on his spinning finger

Warne spent five minutes yesterday with a matey arm on the shoulder of one of those left-handers, Brian Lara. They may not be so chummy tomorrow, when their personal duel will be central to the result of this match and the direction of the series.

The only threat to Lara's participation was that one further disciplinary transgression would lead inevitably to suspension by an administration that, it might be thought, has sacrificed a captain and a management structure to accommodate him.

Certainly, after a saga of sulks and scrapes, Lara can consider himself highly privileged to be appointed vice-captain to the wondrously ageless Courtney Walsh. However, Clive Lloyd, whose return to active involvement as team manager is surely a catalyst for more settled times, takes a sympathetic view. "Brian got annoyed when he was doing so well and the team was losing," he said. "I am not sure he was enjoying his cricket, but I think he is now."

Despite speculation that he would be dropped down the order to protect him from the new ball if the latest West Indies opening pair should fail, Lara will continue at No 3 tomorrow.

Australia's lingering anxiety was lifted yesterday when Glenn McGrath, the strike bowler boasting 80 wickets from his first 20 Tests, was declared fit after a heel injury. Matthew Elliott, who has the adhesive style of Bill Lawry, will go in first with Mark Taylor as both teams try to banish unhappy memories.

The last time the sides met in Australia, West Indies won inside seven sessions and Curtly Ambrose took seven wickets for one run. But more recently than that, more painful for the deposed champions to recall, was Australia's triumph in the Caribbean last spring. It was West Indies' first series defeat in 15 years and now they are intent on demonstrating it was no more than a blip on the graph.

AUSTRALIA (from): M A Taylor (captain), M T G Elliott, R T Ponting, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, M G Bevan, I A Healy, S K Warne, P R Reiffel, G D McGrath, M S Kasprowicz, J N Gillespie

WEST INDIES (from): C A Walsh (captain), S L Campbell, R G Samuels, B C Lara, S Chanderpaul, C L Hooper, J C Adams, R I C Holder, J R Murray, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin.

Ticking bomb on two legs

Beaumarchais. *Radio 4, 11.00pm.*

Craig Warner's serial about the French playwright whose non-theatrical activities were breathtakingly improbable, though nonetheless mostly verifiable, continues on its winning way. Last week's episode saw Beaumarchais (Henry Goodman) stripped of his civil rights after challenging and defeating parliament. Tonight, he is sent to England by Louis XV to defuse a two-legged bomb that could cause heavy damage. The dangerous device turns out to be something not even Beaumarchais' unbridled imagination could have dreamt up. The ticking bomb is played by Bill Nighy. Without giving anything away, I think I can safely say you have never heard him doing anything like this on radio before.

Lunchtime Concerto. *Classic FM, 2.00pm.*

The name Nino Rota should mean something to you if you know fine film music when you hear it. He scored most of Fellini's films. I can whistle the theme from Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* and Visconti's *The Leopard*. Little is worth remembering about *The Glass Mountain* except his music, which was ruined by a ridiculous operatic turn in the plot. His score for *The Godfather* was worthy of the film. But there's much more to Rota than film music. He wrote operas, ballet music, oratorios and cantatas. His tuneful *Concerto for Strings* is played this afternoon by the Accademia Bizantina under Carlo Chiarappa.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo, includes two classic years in the Golden Hour **12.00** Lisa I'Anson includes at 12.30pm-12.45 Newsbeat and at 1.40 The Soul Classic **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, includes at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq **9.00** Soundbite with Danny Kelly **10.00** Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **4.00am** Clive Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Martin Kelner **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Helen Sharman **7.00** Children in Need. The 24-hour music marathon **8.30** Judi Spiers **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden, includes at 1.30 Pause for Thought **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, with Diana Madill **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at 12.35pm Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin **7.35** On the Line **8.05** Inside Edge **9.05** SportsAmerica **9.35** Sportshop **10.05** News Talk, **11.00** Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call with Vincent Hanna **2.05** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Anna Raeburn **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour.
5.30am Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.55** Health Matters **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Jazz Now and Then **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Assignment **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Global Gardening **11.30** The Ed Stewart Show **12.30am** Good Books **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Pick of the World **3.15** Sport **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. See Choice **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Debussy (Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp) **7.00** Travel Guide. Maldives **8.00** Evening Concert. Sibelius (Pelleas et Melisande Suite, Op 46); Nielsen (Violin Concerto, Op 35); Svendsen (Symphony No 2 in B flat, Op 15) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10:00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

TARTAREAN
(b) Of or belonging to the Tartarus of the ancients. Hence, pertaining to hell or to purgatory. Infernal. The place name of the imagined Tartarus. Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ii, 69: "Mixt with Tartarean Sulphur, and strange fire."

TUTRESS
(a) A tutoress, from the Latin *tutrix* with a feminine ending stuck onto *tutor*. "A Tutrix or Regent, during the minority of her supposed brother."

THRASONIC
(a) Resembling Thraso or his behaviour. Given to or marked by boasting. Bragging, boastful, vainglorious. Eponym of *Thraso*, the name of a braggart soldier in Terence's *Eunuchus*. It is a name built from the Greek *thrasus* bold, spirited. "The thrasonic verbiage of German nautical enthusiasts."

UPAS
(c) The Javanese tree, *Antiaris toxicaria*, the milky juice of which contains a virulent poison and is used for tipping arrows. Fable has it that a putrid steam rises from it, and that whatever the vapour touches dies.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rc6+! bxc6 2 Rxc6+ Kd7 3 Rg6+ Kd8 4 Rg8+ Re8 5 Rxe8 checkmate

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS. PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO UK CUSTOMERS (REST OF THE WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY [illegible] TIMES CROSSWORDS [illegible] The Times Quiz Book 1996 £4.75. Crossword Solver's Dictionary [illegible] TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS [illegible] [illegible] No credit cards.

CRICKET

Gatting proving his pedigree

From a Special Correspondent in Melbourne

COUNTLESS numbers of sports coaches labour for years to mould teams in their own image, to create a unit of men or women who will carry loyally their mentor's philosophies onto the field of play. It is a daunting task, but one at which Mike Gatting is proving remarkably adept.

Having taken the England A side under his wing at short notice, after Graham Gooch cried off to tend his sick father, Gatting has, in just over three weeks, succeeded in imbuing the players with a mind-set that unerringly reflects his own cussed approach to the business of winning cricket matches.

There could be no more fitting setting for this exercise than Australia, where, a decade ago, Gatting reached the peak of his powers as the England captain, bringing home the Ashes.

Virtually every other England team to venture here since has failed to capture the flame that Gatting lit. Now he has returned, and a smouldering sense of expectancy has settled around the 14-strong party of Test hopefuls that he leads.

"We've improved with each match," Gatting said. "The batsmen in particular have got better. They have realised what is required in Australia and now they are performing quite well.

"Australia is only as tough as you make it. If you are prepared to get in there and compete with them and get on top of them, then they are nowhere near as competitive. If you can compete with them in the field then they are not as tough as they look when they are steamrollering you.

"That really is what it's all about. It's almost like getting the first punch in. The good thing about the side here is that they have shown the appetite to compete. They have been a bit quiet at times but we have impressed upon them that there is no reason to do that."

Toughness, competition, punches: the Gatting lexicon rumbles with the aura of combat. For the younger England A players, the roly-poly, grizzled figure marching by their side is a guardian angel unafraid of getting his hands dirty.

Sussex yesterday agreed to grant Alan Wells permission to speak to other counties. Wells, 35, has two years of his contract remaining but requested a move after Sussex stripped him of the captaincy three weeks ago.

Brilliance of Rhodes puts India in trouble

INDIA failed to gain the upper hand on the first day of the first Test match against South Africa in Ahmedabad yesterday after winning the toss and deciding to bat. At stumps, the home side were 215 for eight on a pitch that is expected to take spin.

Jonty Rhodes was outstanding in the field for South Africa. It was his acrobatic leap at mid-wicket to catch Sachin Tendulkar for 42, when the India captain was beginning to dominate the bowling, that put his side back in control. He followed that with a direct hit to run out Azharuddin for 35. The former India captain walked before the third umpire had had time to watch the replay.

With Rhodes having removed India's two most dangerous batsmen, Allan Donald cut through the middle order with three wickets, to leave India struggling at the close. Donald was hostile and fast, while South Africa's two spin bowlers, Adams and Symcox, bowled tightly.

There was some controversy surrounding the officials. George Sharp, the English umpire, turned down a confident leg-before appeal from Donald against Manjrekar from the first ball of the day, and De Villiers was also turned down by S. K. Bansal, the home umpire, against the same batsman. Television replays suggested that these appeals were more convincing than the decision that went against Mongia.

INDIA: First Innings

S V Manjrekar b Adams	34
†N R Mongia lbw b De Villiers	9
R S Dravid lbw b Symcox	24
*S R Tendulkar c Rhodes b Symcox	42
M Azharuddin run out	35
V V S Laxman lbw b Donald	11
S Joshi c Hudson b Donald	16
J Srinath c Cullinan b Donald	14
A Kumble not out	13
B K V Prasad not out	7
Extras (b 7, nb 3)	10
Total (8 wkts)	215

N D Hirwani to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-63, 3-98, 4-129, 5-159, 6-165, 7-193, 8-198

BOWLING: Donald 23-11-33-3; De Villiers 15-3-53-1; McMillan 11-4-20-0; Cronje 5-3-8-0; Adams 17-2-46-1; Symcox 21-5-48-2.

SOUTH AFRICA: *W J Cronje, A C Hudson, G Kirsten, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, B M McMillan, †D J Richardson, P L Symcox, P S de Villiers, A A Donald, P R Adams.

Umpires: S K Bansal (India) and G Sharp (England).

☐ Pakistan have dropped Aamir Sohail, the experienced opening batsman, from their 12-man squad for the two Test matches against New Zealand, the first of which starts today in Lahore. Zahoor Elahi replaces him.

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Strauss (Serenade in E flat, Op 7); Brahms (Symphony No 4 in E minor)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Milhaud (La Création du Monde); Haydn (Symphony 96 in D, Miracle)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nick Morgan. Includes Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 5 in D); Marais (Suite in C); Judith Weir (Distance and Enchantment)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Bartok and Kodaly. Includes Bartok (Hussar, Seven Children's Choruses); Kodaly (Nights in the Mountains)
1.00pm News; Opera Matinée. Includes Mozart (Cosi fan Tutte) recorded last year at a series of concert performances given by Simon Rattle and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in Symphony Hall, Birmingham
4.25 Lyric Quartet. Bartok (String Quartet No 2) (r)
5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson and Ensemble Bash are joined by students from Feltham's Longford Community School to examine whether it is necessary to spend lots of money on percussion instruments
5.15 In Tune, with Geoffrey Baskerville. Includes Dvorak (Forsaken, Op 32 No 1); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in G sharp minor); Schumann (Fantasy in C, Op 131)
7.30 The Royal Concert. In aid of musical charities, recorded yesterday at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Stephen Kovacevich, piano, Adrian Thompson, tenor, Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music, Royal Artillery Band, conductor Lt Col C J Ross, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Daniele Gatti. Their performance included Beethoven (Overture Coriolan and Piano Concerto No 5); Strauss (Fanfare der Stadt Wien and Don Juan); Richard Rodney Bennett (Sonnet Sequence)
9.35 Outriders. Peter Watkins, film-maker and allegorist of mass media
10.00 Music Restored. Chris de Souza introduces the first of four programmes recorded last month at the Royal Academy of Music, London, to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther. The Cardinall's Musick are directed by Andrew Carwood in chorales and motets from the earliest years of the Lutheran Reformation, including pieces by Johann Walter and from George Rhau's 1544 publication *Newe Deudsche Geistliche Gesenge*
10.45 Night Waves. Michele Roberts explores the image of the Virgin Mary in the imagination of Western culture and investigates the work of Jaroslav Pelikan, who has spent more than 40 years on Marian academic studies
12.30am Jazz Notes. Features the BBC Big Band in session with jazz and blues guitarist Jim Mullen
1.00am Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze, with Michael Buerk, Dr David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC and Dr David Starkey
10.00 News; The Hearts and Lives of Men (FM), by Fay Weldon. With Jenny Funnell and Catharine Morris (5/5)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. Reports from BBC reporters around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Foul Play. Simon Brett challenges the crime writers Val McDermid and Lindsay Davis to solve a mystery. With Lee Simpson and Maria McErlane 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Change of Heart, by Robin Kelly. Originally commissioned as part of the Young Writers' Festival. With Suzanne Packer, Steve da Costa and Zita Sattar
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan and Simon Hoggart
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees a new verse play at the National Theatre set around a Samurai warrior in love
4.45 Short Story: A Sort of Love Story by Tom MacDonagh
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Hair in the Gate. Clive Coleman's comedy series set in arts broadcasting. A mysteriously beautiful woman appears to Brian. Sheena investigates financial irregularities on sci-fi series. What is the bizarre connection? Starring Geoffrey Whitehead, Rebecca Front and Joanna Monro
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Radio Lives: Freya Stark. A look back at the career of the travel writer with Peggy Reynolds (4/6)
8.00 Analysis: Running Britain. Peter Kellner chairs a discussion on the relationship between civil servants and the Government
8.45 The New Recruit: Refuse Collector. A retired dustman passes on advice to a young hopeful (3/4)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Lady Chatterley's Confessions, by Elaine Feinstein. Read by Amanda Root (9/10)
11.00 Beaumarchais See Choice (3/6)
11.30 Ad Lib (FM) Robert Robinson meets ghost writers (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The Shipping News, by E. Annie Proulx (9/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

أصكنا من الاصل

Pomposity bypass op fails to save Edgar

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

So Nigel Hawthorne copped the lot in the last episode of Paula Milne's drama **The Fragile Heart** (Channel 4) — not only horrible death, but contrition and redemption on top. Poor old bloke. If ever a character was treated as a moral punch-bag it was Edgar in *The Fragile Heart*; it was a miracle how Hawthorne managed a performance of such dignity. Last night, in a preposterous U-turn, puffed-up Edgar recanted medical certainty and denounced the hands-off shortcomings of his own profession. To an appalled congregation of surgeons, he preached "Modesty, I now realise, is my ally and not my enemy". Well, pass the sick-bag, *mother*. Remember David Tomlinson in *Mary Poppins* suddenly hurling his bowler in the air and singing *Let's Go Fly a Kite*? It's no exaggeration to say Edgar's conversion was as deep and real as that.

Top-heavy with symbolism from the start, *The Fragile Heart* was beautifully made and very well acted, but Milne's script was so oppressively schematic that watching it was like being buried under a mounting pile of carpets. Once you knew the story was about cold, male science versus warm, holistic healing, there was nothing to wait for except the next weighty Axminster to be chucked, crushingly, on top of all the others. God, it was annoying. Meanwhile, Milne dispensed justice to her characters with the same high-handedness she decries in the medical profession. What happened finally to the devious Nicola, that chip off Edgar's block? Well, she was humiliated and punished, of course! Sent off to lowly work in an American public hospital! Tee hee, serves her right!

For those who can stomach the nauseating details, Edgar's miraculous conversion included hugging his son, making love to his wife, and declaring an off-the-cuff patients' charter. His long-suffering family applauded vigorously and a chorus of *You Need Hands* was only narrowly averted. Edgar continued to have his nightmare about the doctor who froze to death in a train refrigeration unit *even though the refrigeration was not turned on*, and its significance was finally explained. If a man can so convincingly imagine himself dead (Edgar reasoned), he can also imagine himself well! Unfortunately, he worked this out only just before his heart condition killed him.

Over on BBC2, anyone looking for laughs would have been disappointed. On the other hand, anyone wavering about suicide would have said oh, thanks a lot, cheers, and turned up the gas. Concerning the effect of BSE legislation on West Country farmers, **Modern Times: A Pleasant Land** was the slowest, dullest and most depressing documentary in recent memory, with no narration or music, and nothing of interest happening except in the abbatoirs. Farmer's daughter sits in farmhouse hunched over Gameboy. Bip, bip says Gameboy. Bip, bip, bip (pause), bip.

Watching *A Pleasant Land* was awful. *Put it this way, if we wanted* to see East European television, we would emigrate. Farmers sat glumly in a silent pub (the only pub in the country not playing Britpop) and swapped boring remarks. Cows queued up for death and dismemberment. Moo. Blood dripped off a saw. Depressed farmers' families wordlessly arranged bales in field. Cow eyes blinked and slaughterers sloshed water up their gory, tattooed arms.

"Where's the beef?" the viewer was justified in asking, even if the question was a tad insensitive. The point seemed to be that beef farmers have to wait their turn for the cull, and nobody tells them anything, and they fill in forms and carry on as usual, and make boring phone calls, and the overall result is a sort of tick-tock existential drama in which the stun gun at the abattoir begins to represent a welcome end. But personally I wouldn't call it entertainment. The *decision to have no commentary* was a brave one, I suppose, but the yawning emptiness did not lend grandeur or depth to the piece, it just made it boring.

It was down to Gary Rhodes to complete a whizz-bang evening of telly the world could live contentedly without. Yes, he's back, the man for whom a bad hair day would be a blessing for the rest of us. Is anyone else *embarrassed* by Gary Rhodes's vertical trademark hair? Anyway, **Open Rhodes** (BBC2) sees crazy-hair-crazy-guy Gary attempting to fill the Wednesday night culinary gap left by *Two Fat Ladies*, but this is, alas, a challenge of some magnitude, and the effect is of replacing two big comfy sofas with a kitchen chair.

Finally, it behoves me to say that if tonight's episode of **EastEnders** (BBC1) is truly the last appearance of David Wicks (Michael French), *then he ought to get a proper send*-off, with thanks and salty hankies from a grateful viewer. It's not unusual for a single cast member in *EastEnders* to carry a major plot for a few weeks imminent to departure, but Michael French has not only juggled several at once, he has grown more impressively dextrous as the weeks have passed.

"What about David, then?" we fans have said to each other. "Brilliant, he's brilliant." The villainous don't-trust-me glint in David's eye has long gone (formerly it was always spotted over the shoulder of a cloying Cindy, accompanied by the weasel words "I promise"), and its disappearance was perfectly judged. Now David's promises are as empty as ever but, because his intentions are virtuous, the effect is tragic. David, we will miss you. You are the best actor in *EastEnders*. And if you don't leave tonight, incidentally, I am going to look a right charlie *writing this*.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (50247) **7.00 BBC Breakfast News** (Ceefax) (81518) **9.00 Breakfast News Extra** (Ceefax) (6070063)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) (1270570)

9.45 KILROY (s) (8739044)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (29570)

11.00 NEWS (Ceefax) (2522957)

11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (s) (4140976)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE Redmond O'Hanlon (s) (6967228)

12.00 NEWS (Ceefax) (4883957)

12.05pm SNOWY RIVER: THE McGREGOR SAGA (s) (2544518)

12.50 COUNTRY WALKS TO CURIOUS PLACES: Pure Poetry! (17485518)

1.00 NEWS (Ceefax) (84605)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (14142686)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Ceefax) (s) (24053686)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (s) (1841)

2.30 THE TERRACE (s) (686)

3.00 INCOGNITO (s) Quiz (8696)

3.30 LITTLE BEAR (5800266) **4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks** (8130518) **4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (8095179) **4.35 Smart** (1781131) **5.00 Newsround** (6236841) **5.10 Byker Grove** (Ceefax) (s) (2358841)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (824773)

6.00 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (315)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (995)

7.00 WATCHDOG Consumer magazine (Ceefax) (2957)

7.30 EASTENDERS Joe's vision of the future is shattered as David makes some momentous decisions (Ceefax) (s) (179)

8.00 ANIMAL HOSPITAL Reporter *Steve Knight joins RSPCA inspector John Bowe* and the Metropolitan Police as they check animal transporters on the motorway (Ceefax) (s) (1605)

8.30 2POINT4 CHILDREN Domestic comedy series. Bill's plans for a relaxing time at home are shattered (Ceefax) (s) (8452)

9.00 NEWS (Ceefax) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (3179)

9.30 THE THIN BLUE LINE Grim attempts to join a secret lodge and Fowler is informed that an illegal asylum-seeker has taken refuge in the town (Ceefax) (s) (67228)

10.00 CROCODILE SHOES When Jed is charged with possession of drugs, help arrives from a rather unexpected quarter. With Jimmy Nail (2/6) (936402)

10.55 QUESTION TIME David Dimbleby chairs a discussion from Glasgow. His guests are a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman *Lamont*; *Archy* Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrat Chief Whip; Brian Wilson, a member of Labour's election strategy team; and Winnie Ewing, MEP, President of the SNP (Ceefax) (192131)

11.55 CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK (r) (Ceefax) (575995)

12.30am FILM: Dream Lover (1986) with Kristy McNichol. Psychological thriller about a young woman who seeks therapy after an attack. Directed by Alan J Pakula (131445)

2.10 WEATHER (7990822)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Databased Aids (2323537) **6.25** Sensing Intelligence (2302044) **6.50** Open Advice (9039112) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and Signing) (6161402) **7.30** Perils of Penelope Pitstop (4846179) **7.55** Blue Peter (7367773) **8.20** Noddy (3465112) **8.35** The Record (6670792) **9.00** Daytime on Two: The IT Collection (1298976) **9.25** The Art (6057112) **9.45** Writing and Pictures (6233268) **10.00** Playdays (35841) **10.30** Storytime (3600334) **10.45** The Experimenter (4127808) **11.05** Space Ark (2536150) **11.15** Practising Belief (5152711) **11.35** Landmarks (8388792) **11.55** Belief File (6978334) **12.15pm** Hallo Aus Berlin (7848650) **12.30** Working Lunch (78334) **1.00** Lifeschool (82247) **1.30** Heading South (77605) **2.00** Noddy (56286957)

2.10 THE FUGITIVE (5579150)

3.00 NEWS (4999315)

3.05 WESTMINSTER (Ceefax) (6487570)

3.55 NEWS (5619063)

4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (808) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (792) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (9006976) **5.40 Prue Leith's Tricks of the Trade** (639792) **5.50 A Week to Remember** (b/w) (533570)

6.00 STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE (Ceefax) (s) (716792)

6.40 QUANTUM LEAP (r) (Ceefax) (899624)

7.30 FIRST SIGHT (421) **WALES: The Works EAST: Matter of Fact MIDLANDS: Midlands Report NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST/WEST: Close Up SOUTH: Southern Eye**

8.00 THE WORKS The story of Veronica Guerin, the investigative reporter murdered in Dublin by hired killers (Ceefax) (s) (9247) **WALES: Roll Over Beethoven**

8.30 TOP GEAR Test driving Mazda's RX01 sports car (Ceefax) (s) (1082)

9.00 3RD ROCK FROM THE SUN Sally seizes command when Dick gets the taste for smoking (Ceefax) (s) (4421)

Neurologist Oliver Sacks (9.30pm)

9.30 THE MIND TRAVELLER with Oliver Sacks (Ceefax) (s) (341150)

10.20 10 X 10 (s) (577860)

10.30 NEWSNIGHT (Ceefax) (998402)

11.15 LATE REVIEW (s) (513995)

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (s) (36532)

12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE: OU: Forecasting the Economy (12464) **1.00** The Eurovision Song Contest — Counting the Cost (80984) **1.30** Modelling in the Motor Industry (93990) **2.00** FETV Short Cuts: Understanding Organisations (14613) **4.00** Languages: *Now You're Talking/Bon Mot* (10025) **5.00** Business and Work: The Small Business Programme (98629)

CHOICE

The Works: Dying For the Story
BBC2, 8.00pm (Wales, 7.30pm; Scotland, 7.30pm tomorrow)

The death of the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, shot dead in her car as it stopped at traffic lights, was particularly shocking. As a fearless reporter of the Dublin underworld she had attracted enemies. She had been *threatened, shot at and assaulted. But* murder was something else. The film reminds us that Guerin had come to journalism late and had only been a crime reporter for two years. Her brother says she did not realise how deep she was going and suggests that her paper might have given her *more protection. But it seems unlikely that* she would have opted for a less dangerous beat. From recollections of friends, colleagues and family, she emerges as the best type of journalist and human being, as committed to her craft as to her husband and children.

Women At Play: Women With Balls
Channel 4, 8.00pm

One of the less publicised aspects of the revolution in rugby union is that clubs are opening up to women. It has even happened at Harlequins, breaking an all-male tradition that has gone back 130 years. But being Harlequins, the club insists that its female team is called ladies, not women. The cameras follow the ladies through their first season, during which they score 136 points. And that is in one match. From this limited glimpse, the on-field activity seems no less *competitive than in the male game. The* same can be said for the after-match drinking, though the Harlequins ladies seem less inclined to sing dirty songs. The idea of women playing rugby does not meet with unanimous approval. "My God! You'll be wanting to father children next," says one *appalled male*.

TV Dinners
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's quest for unusual dinner parties could hardly have left out Eddie Baines and Steve Donovan. Brits they may be, but their passions come from the other side of the Atlantic. In culinary terms this means the Mexican chilli. When they cook their wives dinner to celebrate their joint wedding anniversaries, you can be sure it is chilli with everything. "I don't think it will be a romantic evening," fears one of the spouses, preparing to have the roof of her mouth blown off. But Eddie and Steve press on regardless and even the sorbet has tell-tale flecks of red. Tonight's other meal is the work of Wynne Fearfield from the Yorkshire Dales. She is noted not so much for the eccentricities of her menus as *for an obsessional quest for perfection*.

The Mind Traveller: Rage For Order
BBC2, 9.30pm

The alarming thing about the brain conditions featured in Dr Oliver Sacks's series is that nobody seems to know what causes them, still less how they can be cured. The most that experts such as Sacks can do is to observe, which inevitably means intruding into private unhappiness. This intrusion may seem less acute when the story has a positive side. Jessica Park from Massachusetts is autistic. At 37 she still has difficulty with speech, her life is dominated by obsessions which belong more to childhood and she can fly into sudden rages. But she is also a talented artist, good enough to have her paintings put on show in New York. Without trying to play the art critic, Sacks sees her confident handling of colour *and firm use of form as the autistic's attempt* to impose order on a disintegrating world.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (1676537)

9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (1295889)

9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (2004686)

10.00 THE TIME ... THE PLACE (62995)

10.30 THIS MORNING (24006792)

12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (4872841)

12.30 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (4948711)

12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (s) (4923402) **1.25 Coronation Street** (Teletext) (s) (7829063) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (57071112) **2.25 Cross Wits** (Teletext) (s) (57090247) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (S) (6801537)

3.20 NEWS (Teletext) (4906605)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (4905976)

3.30 THE RIDDLERS (3415266) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (7345228) **3.50 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries** (3419082) **4.05 Scooby Doo** (9418711) **4.15 Name That Toon!** (5534773) **4.40 Out of Sight** (Teletext) (s) (4985792)

5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (7283421)

5.40 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (373624)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (Teletext) (s) (820518)

6.25 HTV NEWS (Teletext) (146501)

7.00 EMMERDALE *(Teletext) (s) (3763)*

7.30 THE BIG STORY Dermot Murnaghan meets people who have recaptured the "feel-good factor" and will still be extremly comfortable regardless of next week's Budget proposals (s) (247)

8.00 THE BILL Hollis learns a lesson in community policing (Teletext) (6773)

8.30 IS IT LEGAL? Dick in Court Stella has to play Miss Whiplash again by forcing lazy senior partner Dick to handle one of her court cases (Teletext) (s) (5808)

Brendan Coyle as Tate (9.00pm)

9.00 THIEF TAKERS: Collateral Damage The Flying Squad clash with other police departments when they arrest a former terrorist turned Special Branch operative. The case leads to Tate uncovering a conspiracy which threatens his career — and possibly his life (Teletext) (6518)

10.00 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (46247)

10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (106044)

***10.35 HTV WEST NEWS** (Teletext) (489889)*

10.40 FILM: Lies of the Twins (1991) starring Isabella Rossellini and Aidan Quinn. A model becomes unwittingly involved with her fiance's twin brother. Directed by Tim Hunter (27962112)

12.25am THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (s) (3358667)

1.25 NOT FADE AWAY (s) (7336919)

2.25 FLUX (s) (2647396)

3.25 LATE & LOUD (r) (s) (9551735)

4.20 RECOLLECTIONS (76033342)

4.30 THE TIME ... THE PLACE (r) (s) (61803)

5.00 HEROES (r) (46006)

5.30 NEWS (31087)

As HTV West except:

***12.55pm HOME AND AWAY** (4923402)*

1.25 CROSS WITS (39589402)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24067889)

2.20 VANESSA (57082228)

2.50-3.20 HIGH ROAD (6801537)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7283421)

6.25 CENTRAL NEWS AND WEATHER (838537)

6.55 LIFE LINE (691353)

10.40 THE 1996 MOBO AWARDS (3864266)

11.55 ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS (560063)

12.30am BRYAN ADAMS: WAKING UP THE WORLD (1881464)

1.25 PLANET ROCK PROFILES (9529209)

2.50 FLUX (2878629)

3.45 ITV SPORT CLASSICS (79168261)

3.55 JOBFINDER (8692984)

5.20 ASIAN EYE (1169358)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 EMMERDALE (4923402)

1.25-1.55 CROSS WITS (39589402)

1.55 HOME AND AWAY (29733063)

2.25 VANESSA (57081599)

2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1249353)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7283421)

6.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (80179)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55 CROSS WITS (4923402)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39589402)

1.55 SHORTLAND STREET (24067889)

2.20 VANESSA (57082228)

2.50-3.20 HOUSEPARTY (6801537)

5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7283421)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (711)

6.30 ANYTHING YOU CAN DO (173)

10.30 LONDON TONIGHT *(480518)*

4.30am BEYOND REASON (61803)

5.00 FREESCREEN (46006)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55pm CROSS WITS (4923402)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39589402)

1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (24067889)

2.20 VANESSA (57082228)

2.50-3.20 PERFECTLY PETS (6801537)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7283421)

6.30 ANGLIA NEWS (173)

S4C

Starts: 6.35am PRO STARS (9043315) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (74228) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (56624) **9.30 YSGOLION** *(749150)* **12.00** ***HOUSE TO HOUSE*** (36860) **12.30pm TRUMPTON** (17940044) **12.45 ALFIE ATKINS** (17945599) **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (77315) **1.30 SUMMER LEGEND** (62773) **2.00 Film: THE BADLANDERS** (2992131) **3.15 RICKI LAKE** (6898150) **4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (976) **4.30** ***RIDE ON** (860) **5.00 5 PUMP** (8131)* **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (112) **6.00 NEWYDDION 6** (712150) **6.05 HENO** (831624) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (625173) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (108228) **7.25 PENBLWYDD HAPUS** (359841) **8.00 CYW HAUL** (4315) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (6150) **9.00 I DOT** (7860) **10.00 THE FRAGILE HEART** (7894763) **11.20 Film: WW AND THE DIXIE DANCE KINGS** (822266) **1.00am DISPATCHES** (9412990)

6.35am PRO STARS (9043315) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (74228) **9.00** Here's One I Made Earlier (56624) **9.30** SCHOOLS. Middle English **9.45** The Maths Programme **10.05** Scientific Eye **10.25** Geographical Eye **10.45** Le Petit Monde de Pierre **11.00** Geographical Eye **11.20** Film and Video Showcase **11.40** The Spanish Programme (749150) **12.00** House to House (s) (36860) **12.30pm** Trumpton (17940044) **12.45** Alfie Atkins (17945599 **1.00** Sesame Street (68957) **2.00** Purun Bhagat (46457044)

2.05 THE LIVING SEA (70540179)

2.35 FILM: Challenger (1990) with Karen *Allen. The first of a two-part biopic* about the doomed *Challenger* space shuttle mission of 1986. Directed by Glenn Jordan. Part two can be seen next Thursday (Teletext) (5440537)

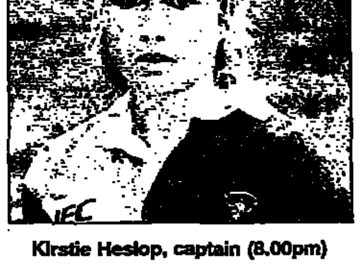
4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (Teletext) (s) (976) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (860) **5.00 Ricki Lake** (Teletext) (s) (5864976) **5.45 Anton Mosimann — Naturally** (Teletext) (647711)

6.00 NEW GAMESMASTER featuring Uri Geller (Teletext) (353)

6.30 HOLLYOAKS (Teletext) (s) (605)

7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (Teletext) (473860)

7.50 THE SLOT (448518)



Kirstie Heslop, captain (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **WOMEN AT PLAY: Women with Balls** First in a new series about women and leisure. Tonight we meet the ladies who play for Harlequins Rugby Club, which last season fielded an all-female side for the first time in its 130-year history (Teletext) (s) (4315)

8.30 CHOICE **TV DINNERS** Two men prepare wedding anniversary meals for their wives (Teletext) (s) (6150)

9.00 DISPATCHES investigates the unstable and unsavoury secrets that can be beneath newly-built homes (Teletext) (s) (633082)

9.45 LLOYDS BANK/CHANNEL 4 FILM CHALLENGE: Balloons Comedy about Julie, her boyfriend and her grandmother (Teletext) (s) (446131)

10.00 FILM: License to Kill (1984) with James *Farentino as the father of a teenage girl* who was killed by a drunk driver. Also with Denzel Washington. Directed by Jud Taylor (Teletext) (833112)

11.50 FOUR-MATIONS: Electric Passions (404042)

12.30am MOVIEWATCH (r) (s) (19272)

1.00 FOUR-MATIONS: Shorts (71280)

1.30 FILM: Trouble for Two (b/w, 1936) Mystery-drama-romance with Robert Montgomery and Rosalind Russell. Directed by J Walter Ruben (4830071)

2.50 FILM: The Bride Came C. O. D (b/w, 1941) Romantic farce with James Cagney as a pilot down on his luck. Directed by William Keighley (867025)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (3357334) **7.20** Press Your Luck (3337570) **7.40** Jeopardy! (5398773) **8.10** Hotel (6474711) **9.00** Another World (5291112) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (9542088) **10.40** Real TV (7123179) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9053860) **12.00** Geraldo (21583) **1.00pm** 1 to 3 (19268) **3.00** Jenny Jones (13957) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (25792) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5711) **6.00** The New Adventures of Superman (21547) **7.00** The Simpsons (3112) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9266) **8.00** Sightings (52334) **9.00** Nash Bridges (22570) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (42957) **11.00** The New Adventures of Superman (73470) **12.00** Midnight Caller (69006) **1.00am** L.A.P.D. (63396) **1.30** Real TV (70174) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (42577)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (8898711) **8.00** Police Rescue (8098119) **9.00** A Death in California: Part Two (5848886) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (2125580) **12.00 FILM: Caveman** (8697716) **2.00am** Hit Mix (5447353)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage and bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am At Long Last Love (1975) (55609) **8.00 Other Women's Children (1993)** (19704) **10.00 She Led Two Lives (1995)** (26092) **12.00 For Love Alone (1994)** (95247) **2.00pm MacShayne: Final Roll of the Dice (1993)** (88537) **4.00 Spoils of War (1993)** (7315) **6.00 Car 54, Where Are You? (1994)** (8195537) **7.45 US Top 10** (272402) **8.00 The Cowboy Way (1994)** (32518) **10.00 Disclosure (1994)** (12883247) **12.10am Midnight Innocence Lost (1994)** (605445) **1.45 Choices of the Heart: The Margaret Sanger Story (1994)** (611280) **3.15 Above the Rim (1994)** (11071)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Sweet Dreams (1991) (32766) **7.30 From the Earth to the Moon (1979)** (65353) **8.30 Jim's Gift (1994)** (34999334) **10.10 Little Miss Millions (1992)** (42152112) **12.00 The Remains of the Day (1993)** (79639083) **2.15pm Forbidden Memories (1995)** (493131) **4.00 Jim's Gift (1994)** (5957) **6.00 The Last Great Warrior (1994)** (44315) **8.00 Muriel's Wedding (1994)** (61307773) **9.45 The Movie Show** (597570) **10.15 Shrunken Heads (1994)** (431995) **11.45 Emmanuelle II (1975)** (429150) **1.15am Muriel's Wedding (1994)** (408280) **3.05 Hear No Evil (1993)** (344418) **4.45 From the Earth to the Moon (1979)** (67532)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Beautiful But Dangerous (1952) (87143044) *5.50 The Yearling (1946)* (60558334) ***8.00 The Trail of the Pink Panther (1982)*** (2366773) **10.00 Commando (1985)** (5903686) **11.35 White Mischief (1987)** (6829570) **1.25am To Sir, with Love (1967)** (6723280) **3.10-5.00 A Day at the Races (1937)** (5519984)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (8629247) **6.25** Quack Attack (6631082) **6.50** Bonkers (6133995) **7.15** Darkwing Duck (8077063) **7.40** Aladdin (3885860) **8.05** Goof Troop (7855060) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (2767841) **8.40** Bonkers (2505889) **9.05** Mouse Tracks (6838044) **9.30** Big Garage (7322228) **9.45** Lamb Chop's Play Along! (613583) **10.15** Muppet Babies (6923044) **10.40** Adventures in Wonderland (2870334) **11.10** Quack Attack (7095315) **11.40** Welcome to Pooh Corner (3099063) **12.10pm** Fraggle Rock (6015995) **12.35** Lamb Chop's Play Along! (4890911) **1.05** Mouse Tracks (69217841) **1.30** Aladdin (61453402) **1.55** Darkwing Duck (6148421) **2.25** Walt Disney Presents (8423082) **3.20** Mouse Tracks (2305773) **3.50** Bonkers (1809044) **4.15** Goof Troop (7554173) **4.35** Darkwing Duck (7609247) **5.00** Aladdin (1304228) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (9421773) **5.35** Bonkers (256727) **6.00** Boneshakers (3402) **6.30** Blossom (7720) **7.00** Home Improvement (7112) **7.30 FILM: Max is Missing** (30436957) **9.05** Goof Troop (651353) **9.30-10.00** Home Improvement (34686)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (74266) **7.30** World Wrestling Federation Challenge (15131) **8.30** Racing News (51841) **9.00** Sports Centre (75421) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (89112) **10.00** Grass Roots Rugby (26131) **10.30** Futbol Mundial (71605) **11.00** World Cup of Golf Qualifier (62421) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (62957) **12.30pm** NHL Ice Hockey (65889) **2.30** Cricket: Hong Kong Sixes (29247) **4.30** World of Sailing (4353) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Superstars (5599) **6.00** Sports Centre (2518) **6.30** Netbusters (89315) **7.30** World of Sailing (5082) **8.00** Cricket: Hong Kong Sixes (87044) **10.00** Sports Centre (53686) **10.30** Fishing: Tight Lines (18570) **11.00** World of Sailing (22315) **12.00** Cricket: Hong Kong Sixes (13716) **2.00am** Sports Centre (10803) **2.30** Netbusters (72960) **3.30-4.00** Sports Centre (13990)

SKY SPORTS 2

5.00pm *Fishing: Tight Lines* (4772063) **9.30** Spanish Football (4775150) **11.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (3120179) **12.30am-1.00** Blood, Sweat, and Glory (1255193)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Live World Cup of Golf (7326380) **3.00pm** Sports Unlimited (50049976) **4.00** Golf Extra (36068841) **6.00** Beach Volleyball (25950808) **7.00** Sports Centre (3608930) **7.30** Football League Review (82658624) **9.00** World Cup of Golf (72343860) **11.30-12.00** Sports Centre (99507686)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (17599) **8.30** Speedworld (93247) **10.30** Motors (98763) **11.30** Karting (14745) **12.30pm** Eurogolf (18624) **1.00** Live Tennis (7589841) **5.00** Live Women's Alpine Skiing (3995) **6.00** Live Tennis (85745) **8.00** Live Women's Alpine Skiing (8024) **8.30** Live Figure Skating (24976) **9.30** Football (54686) **11.30** Sailing (40711) **12.00-12.30** Women's Alpine Skiing (32700)

GRANADA PLUS

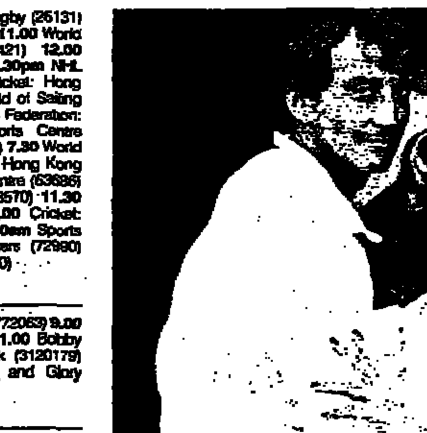
6.00am Runway (8579402) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (85109995) **6.45** Our Backyard (77689624) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (2331315) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (6482518) **7.30** The Return of the Antelope (8833204) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1316860) **8.30** Runway (1316131) **9.00** Families (1339711) **9.30** Albion Market (5444792) **10.00** Goostrey, a Village: Part One (7298605) **10.30** Leave It to Charlie (1339995) **11.00** Love for Lydia (4833024) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1326247) **12.30pm** Surgical Spirit (5455808) **1.00** The Practice (7553450) **1.30** Families (5454179) **2.00** After the War (7286633) **3.00** Leave It to Charlie (7397179) **3.30** Seven up in South Africa (7878866) **4.00** Sam (7372860) **4.30** Love for Lydia (7371131) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (7867570) **6.30** Families (7881150) **7.00** The Army Game (7372895) **7.30** Surgical Spirit (7882334) **8.00** Shades of Darkness (8828315) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (5209624) **9.35** The Good Life Guide (1297315) **10.00-11.00** Sam (5848265) **From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors**

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant. **From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine.** Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith. **From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty.** Includes Natural Health. **From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden.** Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Harold Lloyd (2292228) **5.00** Hollywood (2042858) **6.00** The War in the East (1560841) **7.00-8.00** Biography: The Kennedys Week (4765315)



Charles Dance and Greta Scacchi (Sky Movies Gold, 11.35pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable.
1.00am The Twilight Zone (6771336) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (2756648) **2.00** New Alfred Hitchcock (5686984) **2.30** Night Gallery (5778919) **3.00** Friday the 13th (3674716) **3.55-4.00** Quarks (34882174)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am *The Joy of Painting* (1885353) **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot (5258529) **10.00** Go Fishing (2231402) **10.30** House Style (1891537) **11.00** The Restoration Game (8830402) **11.30** Craftwise (8931131) **12.00** Julia Child (1872889) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (1658585) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (3507088) **1.30** Home Again, with Bob Vila (2008006) **2.00** Furniture to Go (2896841) **2.30** Secret Gardens (8169570) **3.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (2815976) **3.30-4.00** The Old House (8171315)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8183150) **4.30** Driving Passions (8189334) **5.00** Time Travellers (2810421) **5.30** Jurassica 2 (8170686) **6.00** Wild Things (6703614) **7.00** Next Step (2807957) **7.30** *Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe* (8180063) **8.00** The Professionals (5166976) **9.00** Top Marques 2: Fiat (8950268) **9.30** Fightline (7258709) **10.00** Classic Wheels (5156599) **11.00** Skyscraper at Sea (6852155) **12.00** The Professionals (1122209) **1.00am** High Five (1274193) **1.30-2.00** Ambulance! (2642532)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2471131) **7.35** Crossroads (4465686) **8.00** Neighbours (2862353) **8.25** EastEnders (2040518) **9.00** The Bill (1887711) **9.30** One by One (7088976) **10.30** The Sullivans (1883995) **11.00** Softly Softly: Task Force (9802470) **12.00** Crossroads (35823889) **12.25pm** Neighbours (35826976) **12.55** EastEnders (3698247) **1.30** Terry and June (6642353) **2.10** A Little Bit of Emery (34562599) **2.20** Brush Strokes (4462063) **3.00** Sale of the Century (2817334) **3.30** The Bill (8173773) **4.00** Howards' Way (8923112) **5.00** EastEnders (1616334) **5.35** Crossroads (3117247) **6.00** Get Some In! (8179957) **6.30** Ever Decreasing Circles (5285402) **7.05** Bob's Full House (5979889) **7.45** The Other One (5353266) **8.20** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV (8879179) **9.00** The Equalizer (5148570) **10.00** The Bill (6778889) **10.35** The Young Ones (6963976) **11.15** Taggart (8072155) **12.15am** Rowland Rivron Bites the Bullet (8274735) **12.45 FILM: Countess Dracula** (6212648) **2.15** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (6601841) **6.20** Meltdown: No Naked Flames (6612957) **6.45** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (896228) **7.15** Ready or Not (896841) **7.45** California Dreams (895112) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (768632) **8.45** Art Attack (7846421) **9.00** *Tiny TCC (Until 3.00pm).* Tiny and Crew (8893421) **9.20** Brum (8880957) **9.40** Johnson and Friends (5130228) **10.00** Robin and Rosie of Cockleshell Bay (8940711) **10.20** Philbert the Frog (3565808) **10.40** Charlie Chalk (7057570) **11.00** Dinobabies (92402) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (99131) **12.00** Barney (22353) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (50624) **1.00** Casper and Friends (49605) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (61466976) **1.55** Johnson and Friends (13301808) **2.20** Bump (10214860) **2.40** Mr Benn (9206044) **3.00** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (8605) **3.30** Ready or Not (4632) **4.00** California Dreams (6599) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (8711)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (54599) **6.30** Biker Mice from Mars (33421) **7.00** Rocko's Modern Life (7335112) **7.15** Hey Arnold (4727860) **7.30** Rugrats (51315) **8.00** Doug (50112) **8.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (82711) **9.00** Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? (73063) **9.30** Wishbone (10082) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas *(5100792)* **10.10** *Katie and Orbie (5473150)* **10.35** Mr Men (9841841) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (9861605) **11.00** BBC Block (60063) **12.00** Clarissa Explains It All (60599) **12.30pm** Sister Sister (81570) **1.00** Babar (71179) **1.30** Katie and Orbie (80841) **2.00** Little Bear Stories (6082) **2.30** BBC Block (77266) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (4976) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (6711) **4.30** *Rugrats (1008624)* **4.45** *Doug (1003179)* **5.00** Sister Sister (7334) **5.30** Moesha (3247) **6.00** Round the Twist (3860) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (4112)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (7570) **7.30** Benson (3624) **8.00** Due South (74570) **9.00** Almost Perfect (67792) **9.30** Taxi (37614) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (61228) **10.30** Flying Blind (70976) **11.00** Topical Fish (79537) **11.30** Nightstand (51686) **12.30am** Sledge Hammer! (73416) **1.00** Due South (80174) **2.00** Entertainment Tonight (18445) **2.30** Topical Fish (20280) **3.00** Flying Blind (87990) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (11532)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (8503696) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2208204) **2.00** Return of the Saint (2236957) **3.00** The Champions (8939773) **4.00 FILM: The World of Henry Orient** (2813518) **6.00** Joe 90 (8197353) **6.30** Captain Scarlet (8188605) **7.00** The Water Margin (5177082) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (5153402) **9.00** Crime Story (5173266) **10.00-12.00 FILM: On a Moonlit Night** (8938044)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (4021860) **7.00** The Agony Experience (4334537) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (6845889) **8.20** Ken Hom (5092334) **8.55** Turnabout (7452421) **9.35** Call the Doctor (5389222) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (3156112) **10.05** Jerry Springer (7958711) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8737711) **11.55** Brookside (88536268) **12.25pm** Trivial Pursuit (93925266) **12.50** Gabrielle (7094529) **1.40** Rolonda (6337315) **2.30** Agony Experience *(4924518)* **3.00** Live at Three (4704547) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (4908570) **4.30** Talkabout (9244150) **5.05** Lingo (92175131) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4928334) **6.00** Bewitched (4925247) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (6105063) **7.05** Brookside (4801247) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (2981886) **8.00** General Practice (2360599) **9.00 FILM: Trapped in Silence** (18912808) **10.50** Entertainment *Now!* (7745228) **11.00-12.00** *Erogenous Zone* (4310957)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (3150) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (32155) **6.30** Catchphrase (7228) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (4826) **7.30** Hart to Hart (10112) **8.30** Duty Free (5841) **9.00** Bergerac (49808) **10.00** Ruth Rendell Mysteries: *Kissing the Gunner's Daughter* (42995) **11.00** Rising Damp (17711) **11.30** Evening Shade (21711) **12.00** Moonlighting (51990) **1.00am** Bergerac (26990) **2.00** Hart to Hart (80764) **3.00** Moonlighting (84174) **4.00** All Together Now (72613) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (24445)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Lifestyle East **8.30** Pakistan Business Update **9.00** Hit Thi Hit Hai **9.30** Your Zindegi **10.00** Bharat Ek Khoj **11.00** Shakti **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Intezaar **1.00 Hindi FILM: Rahee** **4.00** ZEE Top 10 **6.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Kya Scene Hai **6.00** Punjabi Folk **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Ten Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Andaz **9.00** Urdu Serial: Jaal **9.30** Hasratein **10.00** Commander **10.30** Chehre **11.00** Zee Horror Show **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
9.00pm The Sea Hawk (1940) (86412641) **11.15 The Feminine Touch (1941)** (11673228) **1.00am 42nd Street (1933)** (88936838) **2.40-5.00 The Sea Hawk (1940)** (33848174)

GOLF 46
Corporate elite prove equal to La Manga challenge

SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 1996

TENNIS 49
Sampras refuses to spare Agassi's blushes

Srnicek's errors could prove costly

Keegan must invest in safe keeping

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE championship, Bob Wilson asserts, is never won by a football team harbouring a suspect goalkeeper. Think of Schmeichel, Flowers and Seaman, for example, and recent history appears to support the argument of the former Scotland goalkeeper, who is now a television pundit.

There is even a school of thought which advances the idea that Manchester United edged Newcastle United out of the FA Carling Premiership race last season simply because they possessed, in Schmeichel, the outstanding goalkeeper of his generation.

Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, must wrestle with such thoughts, especially after the 1-1 draw with FC Metz in the Uefa Cup third-round, first-leg tie in France on Tuesday. Pavel Srnicek, the Newcastle No 1, rarely inspires absolute confidence and certainly cost his team victory, if not the opportunity to progress to the quarter-finals. It also cast a shadow over a defence which is undoubtedly improving.

Srnicek is a fine goalkeeper at times but, all too often, he succumbs to a strange madness which undermines his performance. Comparisons have been drawn with Bruce Grobbelaar, but the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper had, in his prime, two assets that Srnicek does not — the ability to command his area, and luck.

Poor Srnicek. Every time he makes a mistake, he is punished for it. There was little sympathy, however, from Keegan on Tuesday night. There was the merest hint of impatience in his voice when he said: "Pav knows that even if he plays well, a goalkeeper cannot make even one error. He will hold his hand up and say he has made a mistake."

Keegan has moved positively to tighten up at the back, by appointing Mark Lawrenson as a defensive coach, but still he has a problem with Srnicek. He tried to solve it by signing Brad Freidel, a United States international, but could not secure a work permit. He did manage to purchase Shaka Hislop, but it appears now that Keegan has even less confidence in the former Reading man.

Bryant's Eye 46
Seaman ruled out 48

Hislop lost his place at St James' Park in December of last season when he was injured against Chelsea. It may be that the time has come to give him one last opportunity this weekend, ironically in a fixture at Stamford Bridge. It is a dilemma for Keegan, who must find a solution quickly if he is to secure the championship. The transfer market would appear to be his best route.

There are not such pressing problems in the back line any more. Lawrenson appears to have installed a touch more discipline in the defence, and it was evident in the controlled display against Metz. Albert and Peacock, in particular, were steadiness personified, and Lawrenson was rightly proud of their performances.

"There was not a major job for me to do when I arrived at Newcastle, just a bit of tinkering," he said. "They are basically good defenders. Albert is so talented, it all comes so easily to him, but I just had to point out that he must not go charging upfield until we have controlled matches — his priority is defence."

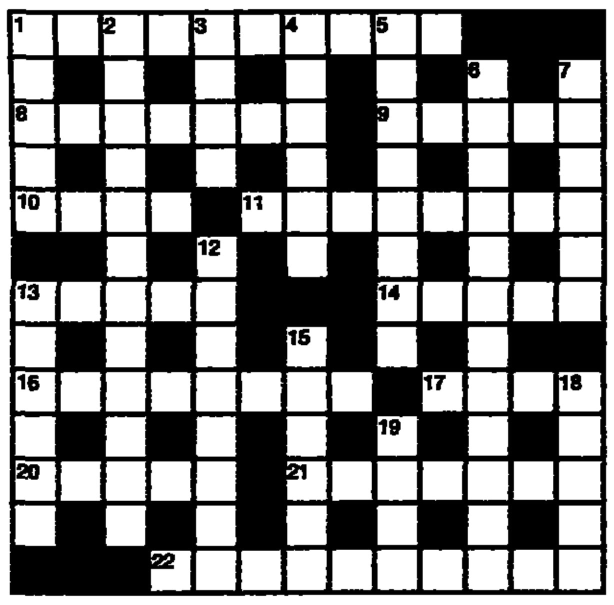
If anyone did give the Newcastle back four a problem in Metz, it was Robert Pires, the winger who bars David Ginola's path into the France side. It was his pace and youthful vigour which set him apart, and although he was not exactly untouchable, he is clearly good enough to attract interest from Premiership clubs.

Pires explained afterwards, in fact, that there have already been inquiries from English clubs, along with Internazionale and Juventus, of Italy. It is the English league that appeals to him. "I would love to play in England. I would choose it ahead of Italy," he said.

"My contract has just over a year to run at Metz, and if there was a reasonable offer from England, I would relish the challenge." It is thought that Arsenal, Everton and Middlesbrough have all monitored the 23-year-old's presence, and Metz, who struggle financially, would be hard-pushed to refuse any bid that topped £4 million, despite an avowed intention to keep him.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 945 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Gradual quieting (*mus.*) (10)
8 Bridge over valley (7)
9 Pigs (5)
10 Crude painting (4)
11 State boundary (8)
13 Asparagus stem: weapon (5)
14 Short-tempered (5)
16 Introductory statement (8)
17 Wild beast (*abbr*): sounds like *shard* (4)
20 *Cutting-, shaping-machine* (5)
21 Holy war (7)
22 Obsolete law (4.6)

DOWN
1 *Oath of the Horatii* painter (5)
2 Sizings (12)
3 Reason: common sense (*slang*) (4)
4 Complete (6)
5 Divisions (among team) (8)
6 State bureaucrat (5.7)
7 White (teeth); Cockney king (6)
12 First showing (8)
13 Lithe: flexible (6)
15 Divided; (golf-shot) hit off-centre (6)
18 Transparent: evident (5)
19 Kentish invader; rope plant (4)

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Name/Address ....

....

SOLUTION TO NO 944

ACROSS: 1 Habitual 5 Limp 8 Sinew 9 Quavers 11 Owl 12 Shipshape 13 Kitten 15 Invest 18 Deceptive 19 Pip 20 Evident 21 Igloo 22 Diet 23 Drumbeat

DOWN: 1 Hassock 2 Banal 3 Townspeople 4 Acquit 6 Iterate 7 Posse 10 Absenteeism 14 Tactile 16 Topcoat 17 Lister 18 Dread 19 Pulse

Milosevic decides to remain with Villa

AFTER hours of negotiations, dozens of faxes and no little speculation, the saga of Savo Milosevic appears to be over, closing with it any prospect of Stan Collymore joining Aston Villa in the near future (Richard Hobson writes).

Almost a month since news broke that Milosevic, 23, the Villa forward, was a target for Perugia, the player has said finally that he has no intention of joining them. Moreover, he has pledged himself to Villa, and having trained hard since returning to England from Belgrade last weekend, may be picked against Coventry City on Saturday because Dwight Yorke is on World Cup duty.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, had a bid of £4.5 million for Collymore rejected by Liverpool last week. He was expecting to be able to raise that to £6 million this week with Villa preparing to send a delegation to Perugia in an attempt to hasten the Milosevic transfer to finance a further bid for the striker.

However, Little is reluctant to sell any other member of his first-team squad.

Villa are likely to resurrect their interest at some stage, although Nottingham Forest, who sold Collymore to Liverpool for £8.5 million in July 1995, may attempt to entice him back. A takeover of the City Ground club will be completed next month, giving Frank Clark, the manager, around £10 million to spend. Their parlous position at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership dictates that he must bring in players of proven quality, quickly.

Solari, the Argentina centre, breaks away from the London Counties cover in the tour match at Twickenham yesterday. Report, page 48

Wembley casts shadow over Sacchi

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE
IN MILAN

ARRIGO SACCHI, the Italy coach, will almost certainly be still in charge of the team when they play England at Wembley in a vital World Cup qualifying match next February. But if they lose, that will be that.

After Italy's recent wretched results, Sacchi has been hanging by a thread. The more so since his great protector, Antonio Matarrese, has been deposed as president of the FIGC, the Italian FA, and will be succeeded by Luciano Nizzola, who has little time for Sacchi and his £800,000-a-year contract.

The coach, meanwhile, is desperately making all the right noises: that there is a great spirit in his team, that they will really be "up for it" when the time comes at Wembley. There are few who agree, least of all Nizzola.

Roy Hodgson, the English manager of Internazionale, for his part, is staying with Inter after being given a new two-year contract. According to the cynics in Milan, the offer of a three-year contract by Blackburn Rovers could not have come at a better time for Hodgson: a time when Inter's fortunes have suddenly changed, when they were top of *Serie A*, when they had just brought off a dazzling 3-0 victory on Juventus's ground in the *Copa Italia* not long after being played off the field there and losing 2-0 in a league game.

At that point, one hears, Massimo Moratti, the president of Inter, was privately talking about finding a new manager. But that is Italian football: infinitely volatile, slavishly geared to the latest result.

In Inter's case, that was a 5-1 win on Tuesday in the Uefa Cup against a Boavista team whose goalkeeper was comfortably the worst I have ever seen in a European game. Even without the dominating Paul Ince, who was suspended but will be back for the crucial derby with AC Milan on Sunday, Inter won as they pleased.

Yesterday Hodgson went to see Moratti at Inter's headquarters in Piazza Duse to tie up his new contract, said to be worth rather more than £600,000 a year, doubtless free of tax.

The sceptics whispered that Moratti did not see Hodgson as the perfect manager, Inter's tactics having been much criticised earlier in the season, even when they were winning — but who else was there in sight?

Sacchi: hanging on

Inter, after all, are top of the league, but many years ago, when I was living in Rome, I remember meeting Bela Guttman, the famous Hungarian coach, in a restaurant after he had just been sacked by Milan, themselves in first place.

"I shall have a clause in my next contract," he said. "Not to be dismissed when the club is top of the league." He went on to win the European Cup twice, with Benfica.

Hodgson, after Inter's crushing of Boavista, told me: "The fact is very simple. I received, out of the blue, an inquiry to see if I was interested in Blackburn at the end of my contract. What happened was that I informed them that I was very interested, and I was very impressed by their people. So really, what I did then, before I could give an answer, I was duty-bound to tell the president (of Inter): 'Don't count on me when my contract runs out, because I'm only contracted till the end of the season, and someone's interested.'

"He wanted to know if there was any dissatisfaction on my part. I said that it was only after next July, when I won't have a job, and I've been offered a very good one."

After a two-hour conversation on Tuesday, agreement in principle was reached between manager and Moratti. "I told him: 'I only want you to keep me if you're 100 per cent sure I'm the man.'" Hodgson said. "In a long two-hour conversation, he convinced me."

Hodgson wants to stay, he says, somewhat longer in Europe before he takes on an English club. He is happy. Moratti says he is very happy.The sceptics will argue that Hodgson may be strong now, but that matters might be very different in three weeks's time.

But that, eternally, is Italian football.

Why Bradman should be enjoying another triumph

Simon Barnes takes issue with the choice of the sports book of the year

It is becoming something of a personal tradition. Every November in these pages, I quote Ezra Pound and then say that the panel that judges the William Hill Sports Book of the Year prize has got it wrong. So here we go again. "Literature is news that *stays* news." Thanks, Ezra, and no. Donald McRae's *Dark Trade* is not the one I would have chosen.

But having got that over with, I would like to say that the shortlist contained six good books, any one of which might have won in some of the thinner years of the prize's history. This is either a fluke, or conclusive proof that the standard of sports books is rising.

All six of these books are suitable for grown-ups. None is stuck with the playground notion that sport is the only thing in life that matters. Each one is keen to set sport and its participants into the context of real life.

My own winner is *Bradman*, by Charles Williams. He is a Labour life peer as well as a former Essex cricketer, and his previous biography was of that well-known sporting figure, Charles de Gaulle. It is a recognition that Bradman is not part of sporting history; he is part of history.

Sport has power over the imaginations of people and of nations. W. G. Grace for Victorian England; Frank Worrell for West Indies; Muhammad Ali for the world. Its role in the world of power and the creation of history is a matter that needs proper assessment. *Bradman* does this, and is a good read to boot.

The winner, *Dark Trade*, and another contender, *On the Ropes*, by a psychologist named Geoffrey Beattie, are written by good-hearted, liberal-souled people fascinated by boxing and half-appalled by their fascination. The research shines from every page, but neither book leaps over the great divide between news and literature.

There is another book of cricket history on the list, and David Foot's *Wally Hammond* is a fine piece of work. It contains the surmise that Hammond's terrible illness, met with on a tour of the West Indies, was not a fancy form of malaria but syphilis: and that the course of the disease shaped his life. It is a well-researched and compassionate book.

Someone had to write *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*, an American journalist's revelations about the heartbreak, tears, injury and abuse behind the making of champions in the sports of gymnastics and ice skating. It is a journalist's book all right. There is no shade, no perspective, and yet it is, in terms of contemporary sport, the most important book on the list.

The last is Sue Mott's *A Girl's Guide to Ball Games*. It is delightful, perceptive and it made me howl with laughter on Finsbury Park station in a heavy frost. Is that the ultimate literary accolade?

Dark Trade: Lost in Boxing, by Donald McRae (Mainstream, £14.99)

On the Ropes: Boxing as a Way of Life, by Geoffrey Beattie (Victor Gollancz, £16.99)

Wally Hammond: The Reasons Why, by David Foot (Robson, £17.95)

A Girl's Guide to Ball Games: What Men Need to Know, by Sue Mott (Mainstream, £15.99)

Little Girls in Pretty Boxes: The Making and Breaking of Elite Gymnasts and Figure Skaters, by Joan Ryan (The Women's Press, £8.99)

Bradman: an Australian Hero, by Charles Williams (Little, Brown, £20.00)

INSIDE

Alan Lee, right, cricket correspondent of The Times, meets Shane Warne, the best bowler in the world. Lee has been voted joint cricket writer of the year by the readers of Wisden Cricket Monthly, sharing the award with Christopher Martin-Jenkins of The Daily Telegraph.

Page 50

MORSE

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